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Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian artillery bombarded Iraqi military positions around Basra, the Al-Faw Peninsula, and in the northern and VII Corps sectors, according to a statement issued by the Iraqi mission to the United Nations cited by INA. A spokesman for the Iranian War Information Headquarters "categorically" denied the claim, calling the Iraqi statement "false propaganda," IRNA reported.

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, commander in chief of the Iranian Armed Forces, again raised the issue of naming an aggressor in the conflict, Tehran radio noted. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing a conference in Tehran, said "with respect to the aggressor we want justice." He said Iran accepted Resolution 598 "in the hope that they are serious about the committee to identify the aggressor." He said Iran had not accepted the resolution "due to weakness" but for "other reasons."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said the USSR had "explicitly" offered to reduce its military support for Iraq if Iran would make "concessions" in its position on Afghanistan. Iran refused because "we were committed to our principles," Hashemi-Rafsanjani maintained.

On the diplomatic front, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati received the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, Tehran radio disclosed. They discussed regional issues and mutual relations, the radio added. Pakistani President Ziaul Haq met an Iranian Foreign Ministry official and discussed the war, mutual relations, and the regional situation, the radio reported.

Iran-UK Relations

The Iranian Embassy in London issued a statement offering to help secure the release of British and other Western hostages in Lebanon, PRESS ASSOCIATION announced.

The statement, issued after talks between an Iranian envoy and the Archbishop of Canterbury, said Iran is "sincerely exploring the possibilities and ways of mutual assistance in tracing non-Iranian hostages." A British diplomat arrived in Tehran 12 August to hold talks with Iranian officials on improving relations, IRNA reported.

Lebanon

Hostages—The foreign hostages are being held in a seven-story building in Harat Hurayk, West Beirut, according to a "classified report" obtained by a newspaper and cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The report has been delivered to the embassy of an "influential Western state," the radio noted. The report states the hostages are being held on the first two floors of the building and are guarded by three men.

Syrian officials gave a "final warning" to Hizballah leaders to release the hostages "within a specific period" or an operation to free them will be carried out "regardless of the price," a "party leader close to Damascus" told Kuwait's AL-QABAS. He said the warning constitutes "a clear sign" the Syrians may "storm the Iranian Embassy in Beirut."

Iran has told the UN and International Red Cross it is willing to "facilitate" measures to repatriate Egyptian hostages, according to an AL-AHRAM report cited by MENA. A "responsible Iranian source" told the newspaper that this would be the "prelude" to other measures designed to improve relations with Egypt.

Rocket Attack—A resistance group "pounded" the Israeli Qiryat Shemona settlement with rockets, Beirut radio reported. Israeli troops continued their "unusual movements" along the security strip and shelled the outskirts of the Al-Biqa' Valley, the radio noted.

Jordan and the PLO

A PLO delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member, arrived 11 August in Jordan to discuss Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Amman television reported. The sides will discuss "administrative and financial" issues resulting from Jordan's recent moves in the West Bank, according to "a responsible Palestinian source" cited by MENA. Also on the agenda are the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian committee and the possibility of establishing a PLO government-in-exile, the source disclosed.

The Jordanian information minister reacted to Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's offer to pay the salaries of West Bank civil servants, saying Jordan welcomes "any brotherly Arab support" for the occupied territories, Radio Monte Carlo stated. However, he said Jordan objects to the "context within which" Al-Qadhdhafi spoke and said the Arabs are "fed up" with such comments "which do not serve the Arab nation's causes."

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the PLO was "neither consulted nor officially notified" before Jordan announced its new West Bank policy. He said he will strive in his next Arab tour to secure "speedy understanding" with Arab states concerning their financial commitments agreed on at the Algiers summit.

'Arafat chaired a meeting in Tunis of the PLO political leadership that was called to discuss necessary measures on the West Bank, Tunis radio said. The leaders are "particularly studying" the possibility of declaring a Palestinian state and forming a government-in-exile, the radio added.

'Arafat met earlier with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who agreed to host an emergency Palestine National Council session, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

'Arafat arrived in Tripoli 11 August to discuss "various developments" with Col al-Qadhdhafi, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio disclosed.

Israel: Occupied Territories

A resident of the Al-Mughazi refugee camp on the Gaza Strip was killed 11 August after a group of local residents attacked an IDF patrol with axes and chains, Jerusalem radio reported. Another man was injured in the attack, the radio noted.

Afghanistan

Rebels have "taken control" of "all major highways" linking Kabul and Qandahar, according to Western diplomats cited by AFP. "Most" of Qandahar is "under de facto control" of the rebels and only "one or two streets" downtown are safe for government troops, the diplomats added.

Rebels downed an unidentified aircraft in Lowgar Province, AFP noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Delegation Visits Moscow

For reportage on the visit to Moscow by Arab League delegation members Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, including their meetings with Soviet officials, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 11 August Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Jordanian Measures, Other Issues

PM1108090188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Aug 88 pp 4-5

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by 'Abd al-Bari 'Atwan in Varna, Bulgaria; date not given]

[Text] ['Atwan] Were you surprised by the recent Jordanian measures?

['Arafat] They did not come as a complete surprise because Jordanian officials had talked about them behind the scenes and had leaked them to the press. So we cannot say they were a surprise. We must point out, however, that although it was the party primarily concerned with the matter, the PLO was neither consulted nor officially notified until after the measures were announced. King Husayn did hold contacts with a number of Arab states before the steps were taken. He said that in his speech. The PLO was later officially notified in a message it received during the Central Council meetings in Baghdad. The message was delivered by 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya.

['Atwan] Did not the states consulted by King Husayn before the measures were announced tell you about the Jordanian monarch's intentions?

['Arafat] Nobody informed us officially. I did not receive anything official from any Arab side on this matter.

['Atwan] Jordan has said these steps and measures were taken at the request of the PLO. Did you in fact make any such request?

['Arafat] We had no knowledge and nobody consulted us.

['Atwan] What is significant about the timing of these measures?

['Arafat] Yes, the timing was significant in many ways but out of commitment to the Central Council's decision underlining the importance of not responding hastily, I prefer to postpone the answer in adherence to the council's decision and in order not to inflame the situation with Jordan.

['Atwan] Jordan's disengagement of the two banks places a great responsibility on the shoulders of the PLO. The question is this: Is the PLO administratively, institutionally, and financially prepared for such responsibility?

['Arafat] Give me one occasion when we have shunned our responsibilities. We have shouldered all our responsibilities manfully and bravely. For example, the Arab nation officially gave Syria $1 billion to arm itself, but when Israel invaded Lebanon we had to fight alone. Four days after the invasion it signed an agreement with U.S. envoy Philip Habib. When I announced my commitment to and approval of the agreement, Habib told me, through [former Lebanese] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam who acted as a middleman between us, that the U.S. - Syrian agreement covered the 10 June cease-fire and that the PLO had nothing to do with it. So we fought for 84 days and we shouldered our responsibilities.

On the 1973 war, I want to say it was a war declared on Israel by three parties: Egypt, Syria, and the PLO. Despite our limited resources we solely shouldered the responsibility for one front, that is, the Lebanese front, in addition to our full participation on the Syrian and Egyptian fronts through the PLA and Al-Yarmuk forces, not to mention the forces which operated behind enemy lines. We fully shouldered our responsibilities and we took them seriously. The PNC then, for the first time, passed a 10-point resolution.

One of the most important points in that resolution provided for the establishment of our Palestinian state on any part of the Palestinian soil that is liberated or from which Israel withdraws. In 1976, when we were besieged by the Syrian forces on one side and the Phalangist forces on the other, we shouldered our responsibilities. Now in the occupied territories we have shouldered our responsibilities and continue to do so against the Israeli onslaught.

['Atwan] The Jordanian Government has dismissed 25,000 occupied territory employees whose salaries came from Jordan.

['Arafat] No, 18,000.

['Atwan] My question is: Is there a PLO institution or department there that is financially and administratively qualified to look after these people with the required urgency?

['Arafat] The PLO structure is capable of absorbing everything so long as it has the resources. I assure my kinfolk in the occupied territory that we will shoulder our responsibilities. There is no other way. I sincerely hope that on my next tour of the Arab states we will be able to bring about an implementation of the commitments agreed at the Arab summit conference in Algiers where it was decided to pay the PLO $128 million immediately to cover urgent requirements in addition to a monthly sum of $43 million. I hope I can reach a speedy understanding with my Arab brothers regarding these commitments.

['Atwan] The initial U.S. reaction to the Jordanian measures was the assertion the United States will continue to consider Jordan a partner in the negotiations.

['Arafat] Yes, Jordan will be a partner in the negotiations, just like Lebanon and Egypt. The same applies to Syria. What is important is participation by the adjacent states plus the Palestinian people represented by the PLO.

['Atwan] Am I to understand from this that the idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation is out?

['Arafat] In our book, the idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation had been dumped, although Jordan did raise it at times. We called for a joint Arab delegation and we are still prepared to accept the idea of a joint delegation with Egypt.

['Atwan] And Jordan?

['Arafat] No.

['Atwan] At the recent Central Council meeting you called for a PNC session. Will it discuss the Jordanian measures?

['Arafat] The PLO Executive Committee's recommendation calling for a PNC meeting was made for the purpose of escalating the uprising. Now the agenda will also include the new measures, which affect the very core of the uprising.

['Atwan] Has a venue been chosen for the PNC meeting?

['Arafat] My brothers in the Central Council have asked me to follow this matter up with the Arab brothers with a view to finding a place that would host the council for a month. Invitations will be addressed only to members, not to observers.

['Atwan] How do the Arab states assess the Jordanian measures? Some states must surely have contacted you after the announcement of the measures.

['Arafat] You should read Declaration 23 of the Unified Command of the Uprising. Our people in the occupied territory consider that one of their achievements is that Palestinian representation has been confined to the PLO and that the decision now lies with the Palestinian people. A few Palestinians in the East Bank have aired fears that the measures might harm the Palestinians.

['Atwan] The issue of passports is raised from time to time. One Palestinian fear is that, after the recent measures, the Jordanian Government might withdraw the Jordanian passports from the people of the [West] Bank. What would be your alternative if such a step is taken?

['Arafat] This is indeed one of our problems, but I want to say the Palestinians in Lebanon have passport problems and so do the Palestinians in Syria, the Gaza Strip, Egypt, and elsewhere. So, all Palestinians have the same problem.

['Atwan] Have you thought about a practical way of tackling this problem?

['Arafat] Yes, there was a plan to solve the problem. The plan is still at the Arab League and it was approved by the Arab foreign ministers. The plan provided for the issuance of a Palestinian passport guaranteed by the Arab League. The plan was suspended until sufficient guarantees could be obtained from the Arab states that they would fully accept and seriously treat such a passport.

['Atwan] Is it not time to reactivate this matter?

['Arafat] I believe the Jordanian measures are one of the factors that will accelerate consideration of this matter and speed up major steps in this connection.

['Atwan] Do you not think time has come for the declaration of a Palestinian government-in-exile that would undertake responsibility for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

['Arafat] At the beginning of the uprising such an idea was raised by some of the my brothers in the Executive Committee. The matter was referred to the legal and political committees for study. The two committees have completed the study but I do not want to anticipate events. Any of these issues should be discussed by the Palestinian leadership before I could make a statement on it. That stems from Palestinian democracy and the eagerness to ensure that any step taken is approved by everyone.

['Atwan] That means such a step is being considered.

['Arafat] Yes, this is one of the things that we have to think about all the time.

['Atwan] Will you submit it to the PNC at the next session?

['Arafat] It is supposed to be submitted to the PNC because when the matter was raised at the beginning of the uprising it was referred to the legal and political committees which are in turn committed to submitting the results of their study to the first PNC meeting.

['Atwan] The uprising has changed many ideas and there are those who believe the Jordanian measures were a result of this change, but the question is what effect has the uprising had on Palestinian action and Palestinian policies on war and peace?

['Arafat] Israel had continuously claimed that the Palestinian revolution was a revolution outside [the occupied territory] and it used to describe the military operations as military action by alien forces in our occupied territory. It managed to convince world public opinion for a long time that the Palestinians in the areas under Israeli occupation had accepted the status quo and there was no

need to raise the issue at Arab, international, or Israeli levels. The uprising has shaken things that were sacrosanct to the Israelis and has undermined the Zionist theory.

Israel is now in a dilemma: If the Israelis go Shamir's and Sharon's way and annex [the West Bank], the Jewish character of the state would end. The number of Jews in Palestine is 3.4 million, of whom 800,000 have actually left Israel and now live in the United States and Europe. So in actual fact, on the ground there are 2.6 million Jews facing 2.2 million Palestinians. The expectations are that by 1992 the Arab and Jewish populations will be equal.

Something else which is nice is the fact we have the highest birth rate in the world. Of course, this is partly psychological, a kind of self-defense for the Palestinian race. After wars more male babies are born because nature always balances itself. We have this inner psychological, educational, and political weapon and it is considered one of our main weapons. Golda Meir used to say: I am worried about the Palestinian babies born.

So, the Zionist theory of a Jewish homeland has been shaken. Furthermore, where is the Jewish state's democracy of which Zionists throughout the world had boasted? That state has been exposed to the world as a racist fascist state governed by a bunch of fanatics, worse even than South Africa.

The other important thing is that the Palestinians have discovered their strength and the enemy's weakness. The forces which had supported the enemy, European first and then American, have given it all the instruments of power, but the Palestinian stone has found the Achilles heel of that armored frame of the most sophisticated war machine. We have discoved our strength and the enemy's weakness. The sharp divisions in Israeli society between the extreme left and extreme right and between the progressive forces and the fascist and racist forces are no coincidence.

The uprising has put the Palestinians back on Arab minds and has restored the prominence of the cause. We were robbed of the [credit for the] Beirut epic when the so-called dissidence occurred. It was not dissidence but infighting, as a battle was forced upon us and so we wasted the chance of taking advantage of the Beirut victory after the longest Arab-Israeli war in which the resistance stood fast against the the biggest power. One side stole that victory.

['Atwan] Does this mean you fear the achievements of the uprising might also be stolen?

['Arafat] Yes, there are attempts to steal the uprising and its triumphs: the attacks on the camps, the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and now the assessination list of Palestinian leaders, all these are attempts to steal the uprising.

['Atwan] Who prepared that list?

['Arafat] I have the blueprint of an operation called "Best Hit" [English words used] prepared by the Israeli Mossad with some Arabs for my assassination. The list also includes a number of other Palestinian leaders. Despite that, I must say the Algiers conference was a comprehensive unanimous Arab answer of historic political significance, an answer given by all the Arabs at the highest level. We must take into consideration the fact there are current continuous attempts to strike at us and steal our achievements.

['Atwan] The uprising is in its 9th month and has gone through phases of struggle. What is the uprising's next struggle phase, in your view? My question, to be specific, is: Is the phase of military action near?

['Arafat] Be a little patient with us. When I visited the Soviet Union, Gorbachev asked me: Will the uprising continue? I said: How long do you want it to continue for? For 2 months, he replied. I said: In other words until your meeting with Reagan. He said: Yes. I said: It will continue.

If you recall, when Algeria called for the emergency Arab summit conference there was some feet-dragging between February and June. When the foreign ministers who met at the end of March told me they preferred the conference to be held after Ramadan, that is June, I said if some people believe postponing the summit for 2 months would be an opportunity for those pretenders to the glorious Palestinian popular stonethrowing revolution and think this revolution will end, I say the revolution will never end, so if you want the conference to be held in September, so be it, and if you want it at the end of the year, so be it because the uprising will continue.

We have entered the fourth phase, which is the phase of partial disobedience. After that there will be a fifth phase of general strike and then will begin general national disobedience. We know there is a vacuum because of the U.S. and Israeli elections. That is why the revolution must continue until the new president assumes his duties in February. If you would like us to make it continue for a year, rest assured we would. We assume the worst and act accordingly. Let me remind you of something. Before 1982 I said that we would go through a dark tunnel. Nobody believed me. When I said we would come under siege in a squeeze-box war in Beirut, some people said: What is this, Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] is now a music lover.

When in my speech on 16 March, when Kamal Junblatt was assassinated in 'Alayh, I said I awaited Sharon there in 'Alayh to fight him, some Palestinian leadership members came to me after the ceremony and said: You said some serious things today, Abu 'Ammar. Could Sharon conceivably reach 'Alayh? My reply was that I neither gaze at a crystal ball nor read palms, but the enemy was saying it was coming to take Al-Damur and return it to Bashir al-Jumayyil. Is there an army which

occupies the coast without occupying the mountain overlooking it? If it only took the coast it would be made a meal of. Naturally, if he said he would occupy the coast then he would have to occupy the mountain.

When the Beirut camps were under siege in 1986-87 the people of the camps sought a ruling about eating cat and dog meat. In practice, the uprising began on 24 June 1986 when the people of the camps sought such a ruling. We asked our people in the occupied territory to stage demonstrations in support of the people under siege. The demonstrations have not stopped since. I said on that day that that was the year of hope. I said I could see light and I said the RPG and stonethrowing heroes were fighting alongside us. The occupied territory has not been calm since that period.

['Atwan] Has the uprising boosted or reduced the prospects of an international conference?

['Arafat] It has boosted them considerably. Suffice it to say the Palestinian question was on the agenda of the Moscow superpower summit and the EEC summit. It was behind the issuance of UN Resolutions 605 and 608. One of the most important things in Resolution 605 is that it puts emphasis on withdrawal from all occupied territories. In other words, that resolution remedies the defect in Resolution 242 by using the word "the" [the occupied territories as against occupied territories], which had been a point of controversy. The uprising made the Toronto conference advocate an international conference and it is the factor behind the U.S. initiatives.

['Atwan] Do you think these U.S. initiatives will continue?

['Arafat] I am sure that as long as the uprising continues the United States will act, not for our sake but because continuation of the uprising means continuation of the Israeli political and historical dilemma. The Americans may be able to solve economic problems but nothing else.

['Atwan] The Americans have asked Abu 'Ammar to support the Abu Sharif document in which they saw the part on negotiations and future settlement to be positive, but you have not commented on it. Some have even gone as far as saying you have now abandoned the article and washed your hands of it. What do you say?

['Arafat] I am not an amateur. I am the PLO chairman. Anyone wishing to ask me a question should ask me directly.

['Atwan] Did the Americans not ask you officially?

['Arafat] Not at all. Do you want me to volunteer an answer? No, I am not running a benevolent society. I do not provide answers in the press.

['Atwan] Contacts were held between you and U.S. officials in the past as you said in your interview with PLAYBOY magazine, but the U.S. Administration has denied it. What is your answer to that denial?

['Arafat] It is regrettable that there have been some prevarications. I will mention some of these contacts. They are examples but they are not everything. President Carter should be asked if he held contacts with me through official envoys during the hostage crisis in Tehran. I have an official letter from Kissinger thanking the PLO for releasing thousands of Americans trapped in Beirut in 1976. We got them out by sea and land by a mountain road and official political and military talks were held through the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

['Atwan] But the Americans denied that.

['Arafat] I refer the U.S. official spokesman who denied that to President Carter; let President Carter deny it. Who released the 13 hostages in Tehran? Let them deny I have messages. I admit they are not signed by Carter but they are signed by American officials. Let them deny that.

U.S. officials used to come to me in Beirut. There are Lebanese and Palestinian witnesses who would testify to that. We are not in the habit of telling lies. An official meeting was held between Khalid al-Hasan and Majid Abu Sharar and Vernon Walters in Morocco. Vernon Walters was U.S. roving ambassador at the time. There are many examples.

['Atwan] Many people were surprised by the quick withdrawal of the fighters from Burj al-Barajinah camp. The withdrawal was contrary to all expectations because the camp had the ability to stand fast and because it was different from the Shatila camp in relation to fortification and number of fighters. So, why this easy surrender, or was it escape?

['Arafat] There was a decision to destroy the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps, which would have meant the end of the Palestinian presence and camps in Beirut, so it was necessary to act. I said so to President Chadli [Bendjedid of Algeria] and Chairman Mu'ammar [al-Qadhdhafi of Libya] and the Soviets. I told them: President al-Asad wants us to leave the camp so we will leave, but this does not mean we have been weakened. I and martyr Abu Jihad had once left Damascus but we returned.

Abu Jihad's funeral was the best testimony—Syrian testimony before being Palestinian testimony—of the importance of the Palestinian revolution and its place in the hearts of the Syrian people. We have been out of Syria but our absence does not mean we are not planted in the conscience of the Syrian people. We are not present in the occupied territory but does that mean we are not there in practice? Some people regrettably do not read history.

['Atwan] Some people expect an explosion in the Sidon camps.

['Arafat] Yes, we expect that in the near future because there is a U.S. plan to end the Palestinian presence in the south and move the Palestinians to Al-Biqa' north of Ba'labakk near Wadi Khalid, so, as Chairman Mu'ammar commented, "those without citizenship would be brought together." The Wadi Khalid people are people whose "citizenship is under consideration."

['Atwan] Will this scheme pass as easily as the Burj al-Barajinah events?

['Arafat] Was it conceivable that anyone in his right mind would seek to bring down Shatila camp, the symbol?

['Atwan] To go back to my question, will the Sidon plan proceed?

['Arafat] No, it would not be easy. The preoccupation with the Lebanese elections and the new president may delay the matter.

['Atwan] Who will be the new Lebanese president?

['Arafat] I do not interfere in the Lebanese game. I did not do so even when I was in Beirut.

['Atwan] Do you believe the election will take place on schedule?

['Arafat] No, it will not take place on schedule.

['Atwan] Does this mean President al-Jumayyil's term will be extended?

['Arafat] No, when I said it would not be held on time, I meant on 23 September. After that date they will have two options. They could either extend President al-Jumayyil's term or elect a new president. The Lebanese Forces are the side brandishing the veto threat.

['Atwan] Who, in your view, is at present engaged in selecting the new Lebanese president?

['Arafat] The agreement between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and President Hafiz al-Asad was that each would have a 50-percent share, but now the Syrian share has diminished to 25 percent since he [Al-Asad] carried out his operation.

['Atwan] What operation?

['Arafat] The Burj al-Barajinah operation and before that the Shatila operation. The eastern [Christian] sector now, by a U.S. decision, has a veto.

['Atwan] What, from a Palestinian standpoint, are the qualifications which the new Lebanese president should have?

['Arafat] The main thing is that he should preserve Lebanon's existence. We are prepared to abide by any decision agreed upon regarding all gunmen in Lebanon.

['Atwan] Do you think any of the candidates can accomplish this mission?

['Arafat] I do not interfere in this game.

['Atwan] Let us go back to the subject of Syria. Your visit to Syria raised many hopes because it was by official invitation.

['Arafat] It was not by official invitation. It was a result of Chairman Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's mediation. That is why I went to Damascus with Mustafa al-Kharrubi.

['Atwan] Did your meetings with President al-Asad in Damascus and later in Algeria not produce positive common ground for reconciliation.

['Arafat] You have asked me how the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps fell. They fell in a moment of trucemaking. They would not have fallen otherwise because not only were they protected internally, they also had Arab and international political protection. The meetings with Al-Asad emptied the issue of its substance. That is why the two camps fell, in a moment of peacemaking.

['Atwan] Peacemaking on your part?

['Arafat] Yes, there was a decision. We buried Abu Jihad in Damascus and I met with Al-Asad in Algiers and in that moment of peacemaking the cover was lifted and the camps were hit.

['Atwan] Do you regret having visited Damascus?

['Arafat] No, not at all. What happened was that some people believed there was a chance of reconciliation. I proved to those and to our Arab brothers that, to have all guns pointed at the enemy, I would go anywhere. I am not a prime minister or a president. I am a leader of a revolution and in the interest of the revolution I am prepared to have dialogues with all my brothers.

['Atwan] Were there no points of agreement in your recent discussions with President al-Asad?

['Arafat] There were many points of agreement and, had he wanted to, we could have built on them, but he did not want to because his agreement with Shultz was more

important than his agreement with the Palestinians—important temporarily not strategically, because agreement with the kinfolk is the more important strategic agreement.

['Atwan] Could we move to the question of Palestinian action? Don't you think it is time some new blood was injected into the Palestinian leadership?

['Arafat] I believe in that. I am the source of the theory of revolution within a revolution and flow of generations. All my brothers know I hold such a theory. I proudly talk about the new generals of the Palestinian revolution.

['Atwan] Do you expect change?

['Arafat] Of course. The new generals will take their places.

['Atwan] You have always warned against continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and its negative effects on the Palestinian cause. Now that the war is entering the cease-fire phase, what is your initial reaction to the new developments?

['Arafat] We were the first to pay the price of that war and we will be the first to benefit from its termination. We paid negatively and now we will receive the price of its termination positively.

['Atwan] Do you believe the cease-fire will hold?

['Arafat] Yes, I believe so. I spoke 3 weeks before the announcement of Iran's acceptance of the UN Security Council resolution. Addressing Iraqi brothers, I said in a speech in Baghdad: You are now in the last quarter-hour. I am one of those who monitor matters relating to the war and I am on several committees for ending the war.

['Atwan] To what extent will the political map of the region change after the war ends?

['Arafat] The political map of the entire region will change.

['Atwan] What will be the features of this change?

['Arafat] It will be for the better, God willing. It should be understood that the Iraqi fighters who fought on the eastern front and the Palestinian fighters who fought in the occupied territory and in Lebanon have scored new victories and brought new dreams: Ending the Iraq-Iran war and drawing the Iranian people back to the holy teachings.

['Atwan] How do you see Iran after the cease-fire? Will it be a friendly state or will it maintain its hostility in one form or another?

['Arafat] The Iranian people have always been friendly and we have been together in a long historical march. The problem is with those who insisted on continuing the war.

['Atwan] Many observers were surprised that you placed your bet on Iraq from the beginning of the war although, in the view of some people, it was in a weaker position. Did you foresee an early end to the war?

['Arafat] It was not a question of betting. The leadership has insight and that comes from information.

['Atwan] Did you have some information?

['Arafat] I must be clear on this matter. From the very beginning I expressed my views frankly to the Iranian leadership and everyone knows the state of my relationship with them at that time. I still maintain the strongest relations with the religious seminary in Iran but I was frank with them and did not try to be courteous. I said to them: This war is against you and against Iraq and we suffer the most harm from it. I gave honest advice and did not try to appease. I made strenuous efforts to stop the war. There were four Palestinian initiatives—some announced and some kept secret—for bringing the war to an end.

['Atwan] You were the first to visit President Saddam Husayn after Iran announced its acceptance of the UN resolution. What did you tell him on arrival?

['Arafat] I had a long talk with him and we arrived at some ideas regarding effective consolidation of Security Council Resolution 598 and the cease-fire. One of my aims was to find out how the war could be stopped quickly and the conflict brought to a conclusion.

['Atwan] It has been noticed you have not officially visited Egypt recently. Is there some misunderstanding in relations?

['Arafat] No, I met with President Mubarak in Addis Ababa and I visited Cairo for the funeral of my brother Mustafa and I officially met with President Mubarak and a number of Egyptian officials.

['Atwan] We have learned that you mediated between the two parts of Yemen to resolve the border dispute.

['Arafat] I made some efforts of which I am proud between the two parts. They generally say the Palestinians constitute the third part. Anyway, I did my duty to both parts and I am happy to have played a part in ending the dispute, which at one stage reached the point of military confrontation. Now the borders have reopened and people can travel on identification cards.

['Atwan] But that mediation was not made public.

['Arafat] Thank God it was not announced because had it been announced the media might have played a negative role.

['Atwan] You have always said you see a light at the end of the tunnel. How close are you to that light?

['Arafat] We have come out of the tunnel with the cessation of the Iraq-Iran war, the uprising, and the steadfastness in Lebanon. We are now in the last quarter-hour which is the most dangerous period. In the last quarter-hour we lost Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah and Abu Jihad was martyred. In the last quarter-hour much blood will be spilled. That is why we should be alert and vigilant. As far as we are concerned it is now a matter of time. The Palestinian state will emerge and its flag will fly over Jerusalem whether they like it or not. It is a matter of time.

['Atwan] Speaking of the flag, I was once visiting an Arab consul and was surprised when he told me British Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher travels on an ordinary passport and obtains entry visas to the countries she visits officially. What passport does Yasir 'Arafat carry?

['Arafat] My kufiyah [headdress] is my passport. You will probably be surprised when I tell you that my passport has not been renewed. I hold an expired Algerian passport. My Algerian brothers do not deny me renewal but I do not wish to renew it. Sometimes they tell me the passport has not been renewed. I tell them: I know that, do you want me to go back?

In the Arab region I do not need a passport. I have not used a passport on my visits to the Arab countries.

'Arafat Chairs Continuing PLO Debate in Tunis

LD1108163688 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The PLO political leadership continues its debate today in Tunis under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat to plan the coming political stages following the Jordanian decision to sever administrative and political links with the West Bank.

An informed Palestinian source has said the legal and political committees of the PLO began their work in Tunis today under the chairmanship of Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by examining the measures which have to be adopted following the Jordanian decision. The conclusions of the legal and political committees' work will be submitted to the Palestine National Council [PNC] which is due to convene in September.

WAFA has announced that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has voiced his consent for Algeria to host the emergency PNC session. The agency added the decision was made yesterday after PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Algeria.

Salah Khalaf Comments on Jordanian Measures

JN1108183088 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Salah Khalaf—Abu Iyad—Fatah Central Committee member, has said that Jordan's decision disengaging administrative and political links with the West Bank is in the interest of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation. He described His Majesty King Husayn's decision as courageous and positive regarding Palestinian representation in the occupied land—something that cannot any longer be called into question. King Husayn, he added, wanted to place the world face to face before its responsibilities. The decision has, however, placed on us as the PLO responsibilities and given us political rights, Salah Khalaf added.

Interviewed by AL-HURIYAH, mouthpiece of the ruling Democratic Destourian Party in Tunisia, Khalaf said as the uprising and along with it Palestinian steadfastness solidified, it became clear to everyone there is no longer anyone who can claim to represent the Palestinians. He said: True, we did not ask His Majesty King Husayn to make such a decision or consult with him. But we look forward to good relations with Jordan. We will discuss with the Jordanians all political possibilities as well as administrative and financial details in light of this decision. He added that although His Majesty King Husayn addressed these points in his recent news conference, it is important that relevant consultations be held.

Abu Iyad said if it should emerge from our consultations with Arab states that a Palestinian government-in-exile is not agreeable to them, we will tell our people that such a move is untimely. Failure to set up a government-in-exile will not do away with the PLO, which will remain as its political party and framework. We are now being put to a new test and we are not balking at our new responsibilities.

Al-Hurani Praises Jordanian Stand on Passports

JN1208093888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Dubayy, 12 Aug (WAKH)—'Abdallah al-Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, has said Palestinian jurists have laid down the features, conditions, and aspects of a Palestinian state. He added the Palestinian jurists are now searching for the framework of this state. In a statement to AL-BAYAN published today, Al-Hurani said the Jordanian step to disengage the relationship with the West Bank necessitated a discussion on the Palestinian situation. He said the PLO will assume all responsibilities toward its Palestinian Arab people and the Arab nation.

Al-Hurani said the PLO will take all measures and steps in consultation with the Arab brothers to reinforce Palestinian identity and promote the understanding of Palestinian national identity to reach an independent state and to entrench the unity of the Palestinian people wherever they are.

The PLO Executive Committee member praised the Jordanian stand on keeping the passports of the West Bank Palestinians. He noted this explains Jordan's concern for and commitment to its stand on behalf of the Palestinian cause and its support for it.

Fatah Opposition Group on Government-in-Exile
JN1208055888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] The Fatah Provisional Command which has its headquarters in Damascus announced yesterday through its spokesman 'Abd al-Hadi al-Nashshash that it was the PLO which prepared the document on a government-in-exile last June upon the advice of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. The spokesman affirmed that it was agreed to make this document public upon Jordan's announcement on 31 July on the disengagement of its legal and administrative relations with the West Bank. He added that consultations in this respect were held between Jordan and the PLO, thus refuting the PLO's claim that Jordan adopted this decision without consulting it.

The Fatah Provisional Command reiterated its opposition to the formation of a Palestinian government-in-exile, stating such a step means the PLO has abandoned its national charter and seeks to liquidate the Palestinian cause.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Foreign Ministers Meeting Begins 11 Aug

King Birendra Opens Session

BK1108235888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The SAARC regional convention on suppression of terrorism will come into force from the 22d of this month. This was decided by the SAARC Council of Ministers at its meeting in Kathmandu today. The member countries of the association have already ratified the convention.

The ministers also endorsed the recommendation of the Standing Committee that the South Asian food security reserve should come into operation from tomorrow.

Earlier, addressing the meeting the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, called upon the member countries to extend their cooperation to cosectors like trade, money, finance, and production. He said this will facilitate bringing peace and stability to the region.

Referring to some recent developments in the region, Mr Narasimha Rao said we must do whatever we can to ensure that peace returns to the region, which has been strifetorn for years.

Inaugurating the meeting in the morning, King Birendra of Nepal, who is the current chairman of the SAARC, emphasized the need for unity and trust among the member countries to build a prosperous future for the region. He asked them to share their experiences and experties for the benefit of all.

Sri Lanka Wants Postponement

BK1208034188 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Excerpt] AIR's Kathmandu correspondent, Sushil Chopra, reports that the question of the date of the next summit was not taken up for discussion by the council of ministers today. Sri Lanka, which was to host the next summit in November, has suggested its postponement in view of the ethnic problem in the island.

In a statement, its foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, said if the summit cannot be postponed, it can be held in some other member country.

Yaqub Khan Addresses Meeting

BK1208083488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has called upon the SAARC member nations to strive to create an atmosphere of peace and stability, which is greatly needed for the success of the regional cooperation program. Addressing the first formal session of SAARC's fifth ministerial council in Kathmandu yesterday, he said the promotion of member nations' border security should be regarded as an important element in the strategy for cooperation. In this context, the foreign minister cited the example of the condition and developments in Afghanistan, which could create a disastrous political situation. The foreign minister reiterated that Pakistan is sincerely complying with the Geneva accords and the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan, and Pakistan has already confirmed this.

Concerning the creation a food security reserve in South Asia, the foreign minister said this would be an important step in moving toward collective self-sufficiency to eradicate poverty from the region. Also, the convention on the elimination of terrorism, already signed by member countries, will promote an atmosphere of mutual confidence. Foreign ministers of other member nations also addressed the conference.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan called on King Birendra of Nepal in Kathmandu yesterday to deliver a message of goodwill from President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. King Birendra responded with similar sentiments and expressed his appreciation of Pakistan-Nepal cooperation under the SAARC framework and at the international level. The foreign minister also expressed his appreciation for Nepal's continued support for Pakistan's principled position on Afghanistan.

Algeria

Algiers To Host Extraordinary PNC Session

JN1108131488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Palestinian sources in Tunis have stated that following a contact with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid agreed to host an extraordinary PNC session in Algiers to discuss King Husayn's decision to disengage the legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank.

Rejection of Mideast Conference Announced

JN1208100088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0852 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 12 Aug (WAKH)—Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, head of the FLN Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat in Algeria, has announced Algeria's rejection of an international conference on the Middle East. He said this conference will certainly result in recognizing Israel. He also warned against forcing the coming generations to suffer the consequences of any form of capitulation.

In a statement to AL-KHALIJ published today, Messaadia affirmed the need to confront Israel, as it is a colonialist phenomenon. He said Israel is now supported by forces which have military superiority. He said: However, the phenomenon of superiority is not eternal.

Messaadia said the recent summit in Algiers has allowed the Palestinian cause to regain its position and entrenched the Palestinian right to self-determination and the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Messaadia said that the brothers' war in Lebanon only benefits the Zionist enemy.

The Algerian official called for settling the Lebanese crisis out of our concern for Lebanon's position in the confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

Bendjedid Congratulates Iraqi President

LD1108121688 Algiers APS in English 1129 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Algiers, 11/8/88 (APS)—After the announcement of the cease fire between Iraq and Iran, President Chadli Bendjedid expressed the great satisfaction of the Algerian, people, party and government. In a message sent to Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn, the head of state mainly underlined:

"I am convinced that history will remember in your benefit and in the benefit of your people, the clear sighted decision which shows wisdow and long vision. At the same time, the decision is important and is a source of joy not only for Iraqi and Iranian people but also for all Arab and Moslem inhabitants and all peace and justice loving nations."

By warmly congratulating the Iraqi people and their political leadership, I want to assure you that we share your joy, the message added.

Egypt

Iran Said 'Willing' To Release Detainees

NC1208041488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has reported that the Iranian Government informed UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and representatives of the International Red Cross that it is willing to facilitate measures for the repatriation of detained Egyptian citizens. It is willing to start to take these measures immediately because the Egyptians it is holding are not prisoners of war but civilians who did not take part in the battles between Iraq and Iran, even though they were detained during military operations.

In a report datelined New York, AL-AHRAM says in its 12 August issue that Iran wants to show its good intentions toward Egypt and a number of other countries whose nationals are still being detained by Iran but which have no relations with Tehran at present.

A responsible Iranian source in New York has told AL-AHRAM that this Iranian initiative to facilitate the repatriation of Egyptian nationals will be the prelude for other measures aimed at improving the atmosphere between the two countries.

AL-AHRAM adds that Perez de Cuellar has informed Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, head of the Egyptian delegation at the United Nations, of the Iranian Government's desire to speed up the repatriation of the Egyptian nationals it holds. The ambassador sent a detailed report on the issue to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. The paper notes that Ambassador Badawi had raised this issue with Perez de Cuellar during the series of recent meetings between them within the framework of Egypt's efforts to help reach an agreement on a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran.

AL-AHRAM also says that Perez de Cuellar had in fact asked Red Cross representatives who had recently visited Tehran to discuss the issue of detained Egyptians with the Iranian authorities within the framework of their talks on the exchange of prisoners of war between Iraq and Iran, and also to ascertain the number of Egyptians in Iran and where they are being held. The paper adds that lists of Egyptians who were detained by the Iranian forces during the military operatiaons against Iraq are being drawn up now.

Mubarak Writes Peres About Al-Aqsa Mosque

PM1208103788 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Aug 88 p1

['Imad Mahjub report: "Mubarak Writes to Peres About Al-Aqsa Mosque"]

[Text] In recent weeks President Mubarak has sent several messages about the Al-Aqsa Mosque situation to Shimon Peres, foreign minister of the Israeli enemy, expressing the Egyptian people's wrath because of the threat posed to the mosque by the continuing excavation work around it.

In a message delivered by Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni, Mubarak said that the Al-Aqsa Mosque represents the red line in Egyptian-Israeli relations and that demolition of the mosque would mean immediate severance of these relations.

Peres referred the Egyptian president's message to enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who refused to answer it saying that, contrary to diplomatic practice, President Mubarak had deliberately addressed Peres (the foreign minister).

Peres has again called, through the U.S. Administration, for an urgent Egyptian-Zionist summit between President Mubarak and Shamir to discuss outstanding issues of interest to both countries, especially the Tabah issue, what is happening at the Al-Aqsa Mosque (which Shamir considers a local matter), the uprising and the situation in the West Bank, and the Israeli Government's position on the question of negotiations with the Palestinians on which Shamir is intransigent and to which Peres does not agree.

The occupation authorities had provoked the Muslim world by resuming excavations around the Al-Aqsa Mosque. After demonstrations by the people of the old city of Jerusalem, the authorities had to stop the excavations which began on 15 July to open a tunnel leading to the Al-Buraq wall which Israel calls the wailing wall.

Official on Palestinian Moves, Prisoners in Iran

NC1208110588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Muscat, 12 Aug (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Egypt welcomes the arrival of a Palestinian delegation in Jordan to hold talks with Jordanian officials on King Husayn's recent decision to break Jordan's legal and administrative links with the Palestinians in the West Bank. He said: We consider this a very constructive step, and we hope the talks will lead to Jordanian-Palestinian coordination.

Speaking to a MENA correspondent in Muscat, where he is visiting the Sultanate of Oman, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt's stand on this issue has been very clear all along. Egypt believes the Palestinian problem cannot be solved without Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, which we have always been eager to promote, he added.

'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt considers this step by the PLO as a positive one, stressing that Jordan, for its part, will reciprocate with a similar positive step to serve Arab interests. He noted in this respect that His Majesty King Husayn had emphasized his adherence to the peace process and his keenness to support the Palestinian people's rights.

Regarding the status of Egyptian prisoners held by Iran in light of recent developments, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said this topic will be discussed during direct talks between Iraq and Iran scheduled to begin on 25 August in Geneva. He pointed out that Resolution 598 includes several clauses: first, the cease-fire; second, withdrawal to the international borders; third, the exchange of war prisoners; and fourth, a commission to determine which party was responsible for starting the war.

He noted that these clauses are interrelated. He added that the issue of the prisoners, whether Egyptians or otherwise, will be a topic for discussion within these clauses during the Geneva meetings. It will also be high on the agenda of discussions once the issue of the troop withdrawal is settled, he added. He expressed hope that the discussion would lead to the release of all prisoners of war held by both sides. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH Hails Investment Companies Bill

JN1108204088 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Aug 88 p 6

[Editorial: "An Economic Addition Within the Correct Framework"]

[Text] Work under the executive bill for the capital investment companies began yesterday. This bill was adopted with a view to attaining the aims for which the government intervened to protect the depositors' rights and to explain the role these companies should play in Egyptian economy so that they will, as the legislator wanted, be a real asset to investment and production, especially since the money available to these companies and the depositors' confidence in them before recent developments enabled them to get undeniable huge sums of money.

The new bill concentrates on organizational matters and removes the doubts and the claims that the government intends to destroy these companies. It restores confidence to the ordinary citizen and gives him a golden chance to join the development efforts by embarking on production investments that generate strong assets and by avoiding currency speculation or consumer activity that should not have a domineering scope of activity.

The fairness of the new bill and the law regulating capital investment has been proven by the fact that the serious companies welcomed the issuance of the law and the bill due to their confidence in their activities. The largest of the companies also announced its desire to adapt to the new law. Hence, we can consider Tuesday, 9 August 1988, the beginning of a new stage in the function of this economic sector so that it will play its role in development and in benefiting from the available Egyptian revenues and in using the Egyptians' savings in economically feasible projects that are needed by the country and that are incorporated in the development plan.

This will create more work opportunities, curb inflation, and lead to competition among the economic and financial sectors to attract the citizens' savings in an atmosphere of confidence and safety. Thus, the government has fulfilled its pledge to the people and protected these people's rights and placed the capital investment companies within the correct framework.

Paper Interviews Ministers on Arms Industry
PM1108113388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Aug 88 p 7

[Unattributed report on interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah and Minister of State for Military Production Dr Eng Jamal al-Din al-Sayyid Ibrahim in Cairo; date not specified]

[Text] Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister and defense minister, is one of the military experts in the Middle East region. He is familiar with the nature of the land and the battles in the region and how to use weapons in battle at any time. He envisions the idea of a unified Arab strategy for the future based on the rule that whoever possesses power possesses the ability to deter aggression; and whoever possesses the ability to manufacture arms can break the arms monopoly and withstand the most difficult situations. He also believes in an Arab strategy capable of manufacturing arms.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egyptian national security is linked with Arab security. For this reason, I have always said Gulf security is linked with Egyptian security. Therefore, I am dreaming of the day when I can see an Arab force capable of protecting the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf. And that requires a more effective and positive role as well as a unified stand in order to break the monopoly of the manufacture of arms so that planes, tanks, missiles, and submarines will be of Arab manufacture.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah added that Egypt is currently about to manufacture an Egyptian tank. The design has been made in line with the latest scientific standards. A tank design, suitable for keeping pace with the times until the year 2000, has been selected. And these are among the most sophisticated tanks in terms of technology. And the Egyptian tank will be produced in less than 2 years, a record we hope to achieve, God willing.

Regarding the 'Ayn al-Saqr-80 missile, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that this missile has entered into operation and the production stage has begun. Great efforts are also being made to make available the material required for the manufacture of tanks and guns. This is very vital so that the manufacture of any weapon will not be subject to the whim of those supplying us with the raw material.

We are coordinating with the Iron and Steel Company for the establishment of a production line for making special armored steel sheets necessary in the manufacture of the Egyptian tank and gun. This has given a new impetus in addition to past achievements in the great upsurge in the manufacture of arms: We have presented the Fahd armored vehicle; the Gazelle, Alpha Jet, and Tucano planes; and also the Saqr-30 missile, which all are highly efficient and of the highest international standards. This is because we in the Armed Forces believe that those who possess the capability to manufacture arms possess the capability to face the most difficult circumstances.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said: We are benefiting from and exchanging expertise with all states of the world in order to establish an Egyptian expertise capable of manufacturing and innovation, because we have the scientists.

We are currently considering the manufacture of the U.S. TOW missile, particularly after our total success in manufacturing the English Swing Fire missile, the reason being that the modified TOW missile is more advanced than the Swing Fire.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that military factories and the Arab Industrialization Organization have managed to manufacture warheads for anti-armor missiles [molitica] and are now considering the manufacture of a second generation of the missiles under Egyptian expertise.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah confirmed Egypt's success, with France's cooperation, in developing and producing two new air defense systems, the Nile-23 and Sinai-23. The idea of the new Nile-30 missile is based on combining an anti-aircraft gun and anti-aircraft missiles within a single air defense system. The new system (Nile-23) is an Egyptian project based on Egyptian ideas and implemented through the expertise of our sons, the engineers and technicians in the Armed Forces.

It is an Egyptian project involving the installation of a double-barreled 23m gun with the 'Ayn al-Saqr missiles within a single air defense system to protect field formations. It combines both artillery and anti-aircraft missiles. The system is mounted on an M-113 armored vehicle so that it will have manuvering capabilities. It is equipped with a French radar system to control the firing process.

In addition, the Sinai-23 system is based on the same idea but is different from the Nile-23 system to some extent. Experiments on both systems have succeeded, and both are now in service. The air defense forces have been equipped with both.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah emphasized that Eastern weapons are undergoing major modification. Some weapons whose lifetimes have ended are still operating very efficiently. We still possess Eastern arms that began service in 1963, including, for instance, SAM-2 missiles, the first missile system to enter Egypt and contribute to the protection of vital targets. In fact this system was the main element in the missile barrier during the October 1973 battles. These missiles are still operating very efficiently and produce good results hitting targets. Their use was extended after 1981, and they are still suitable for service for years to come, especially as we have now extended their use again.

We are currently carrying out complete overhauls on all the SAM missiles. In addition, they are being modified and developed in order to increase combat efficiency so that they will keep in step with the times. This saves a lot of money for us. For instance, the air defense group costs more than $40 million, while their development costs only $2-3 million. After this development they will operate efficiently. Another example, and of course this is just an example, is that the French Mirage-2000 aircraft or the American F-16 aircraft cost 23-24 million [unit not specified], that is, without any weapons or ammunition, and without maintenance costs.

Obviously any warplane without weapons and maintenance is useless. The question is: How much does the arming of an aircraft cost? The known rule is that the cost of arming and servicing an aircraft equals its price. This means that a plane costing $23 million needs another $23 million to arm. One simple example: The Mirage-2000 aircraft is armed with two air-to-air French missiles called 530 [as published]; each costs $7 million. A tank costs today $1 million and in the 1990's it will cost $3 million.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said: We possess the latest weapons in the world. We have the Mirage-2000 aircraft, which is now being partially manufactured in Egypt. We also have F-16 aircraft, E-2C early-warning aircraft, and also reconaissance drone aircraft.

In air defense we have the Sky Guard missiles, French Crotale missiles, the Egyptian Amun system, which is a modified version of the Egyptian-made Sky Guard. In addition, we manufacture the Gazelle helicopter, the Alpha Jet and Tucano training aircraft, and also Ramadan naval missile launchers.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said: Our strategy emanates from the words of Almighty God: "Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war to strike terror into (the heart of) the enemies" [Koranic verse]. It is a strategy of deterrence aimed at preventing aggression.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah emphasized: We believe that he who possesses the capability to manufacture arms possesses the capability to break the arms monopoly and possesses free will. That is why we believe that our entry into the manufacturing stage emphasizes our basic concept, namely deepening the Egyptian military strategy based on achieving Egyptian national security that is linked, both spiritually and physically, to Pan-Arab and African security.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said: I believe that our practical stands with our Arab brothers in Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, and elsewhere are a suitable reply to anyone who tries to strike at Arab ranks.

Concerning the fuss kicked up by Israel because of the missiles Saudi Arabia obtained from China, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that Egypt, via President Mubarak, has emphasized that any attempt to hit any missile on Saudi territory would be tantamount to striking at and even destroying peace because Egypt is linked to Saudi Arabia by immortal historic ties. Egypt will not tolerate any attempts to get near Saudi territory because, to Egyptians, Saudi Arabia represents the honor of Muslims throughout the globe. By no means will we allow any hostile attempt against the focal point of Islam and Muslims.

We also repudiate any aggression against any Arab country. In the past Egypt refused to participate or allow its territory, airspace, or territorial waters to be used in any operation against Libya, because Libya is an Arab state, and regardless of our differences, we will not allow anyone to exploit our territory to commit aggression against a neighboring Arab state.

Meanwhile, Dr Eng Jamal al-Sayyid, military production minister, said that Egyptian arms manufactured by Egyptian people are truly a success story for our national industry and emphasized that it has the capability to continue. This prompts us all as Arabs to work for the implementation of the clauses of the joint defense pact aimed primarily at establishing a true Arab industry serving all the Arabs. The Egyptian arms exhibition in the UAE achieved a major success, since it proved to the Arab brothers that Egypt is capable of producing highly efficient weapons of all types.

In the near future there will be an Egyptian arms exhibition in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom in response to an invitation from Prince Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, defense minister. There is also an Egyptian arms exhibition in Morocco in response to an invitation from King Hassan after the success achieved in the UAE. This proves that Egypt is capable of meeting the requirements of the Arab brothers regarding any type of weapons or ammunition at any time.

The Egyptian military production minister said: Our arms production liberates our political will and secures the hard currency necessary for the development plan. Above all this, the industrial base, which is growing rapidly, will be used for civilian purposes. As for technical cadres, they are truly an indispensable asset. They represent a base for progress in the future.

The military production minister said: The Cairo International Arms Exhibition held last November included 19 states represented by 164 companies, 30 American and 42 French. The exhibition was not confined to one camp to the exclusion of another.

Egyptian exhibits represented a civilizational surge forward. Experts said that these products were both surprising and realistic, in the sense that they comprised all items needed by individuals, units, or formations. For instance, we rearmed the Russian T-55 tank with Egyptian-made 105 mm caliber guns, thus making the tank a fundamental element in the armored units. Attempts are being made to enhance the capability of armor. This is also being applied to the M-113 carrier, using the latest technology.

There is also the process of mounting the 122mm howitzer gun on the chassis of the tank so that it will be a gun capable of working with armored mechanized formations; this is purely Egyptian-made; it is produced by the Abu Za'bal Engineering Company. The M-113 armored carrier is being developed to resist firing by small arms and artillery. The Arab Industrialization Organization (Qadir Factory) has designed additional light armor, which does not represent any additional burden on the vehicle, to prolong its life and provide more protection for its crew.

As for the Sinai air defense system, it has been developed to serve armored formations. It works automatically and has high-speed performance. It helps to pinpoint air targets, fighter planes or helicopters flying low, 12km away. It is worth noting that most of the firepower elements such as the 23mm guns, SAM-7's, and ammunition, and also the optical and radio instruments necessary for that system are manufactured in Egypt.

Dr Jamal al-Sayyid, military production minister, said that the Qadir Factory has produced the "Fahd" armored personnel carrier. There is also a missile launcher mounted on the FAB jeep. It is designed to work with the airborne forces and shock forces to enhance their firing capability. Regarding the manufacture of antitank projectiles there is the TOW projectile which is being manufactured by Egypt under a license from the United States. There is also the long-range Swing Fire missile which is mounted on a jeep. It is being manufactured in full under an agreement with the British Government.

New generations of projectiles such as the Tow-2 projectile are being manufactured as well. The Walid, a vehicle equipped with multi-barrel smoke missile launchers and long-range 130mm caliber guns, is also being manufactured. Attempts are being made to mount the 122mm caliber mortar on the M-13 armored vehicle. In addition, ammunition and bombs necessary for aircraft and SAM-2 and SAM-7 missiles are also being manufactured.

The Alpha jet is being manufactured by the Arab Industrialization Organization aircraft factory. Jet engines are also manufactured at the engine factory adjacent to the Arab British Company that manufactures the Gazelle helicopter, which is truly considered to be one of the best helicopters. In addition, aircraft spare parts are manufactured. There is also the advanced Tucano plane, which is a training plane designed for Air Academy students. Besides, all types of weaponry necessary for all types of aircraft are manufactured. These include 1000kg, 500kg, and 250kg bombs as well as the Al-Mamarrat bombs. Additional fuel tanks are also manufactured. All this puts us on the road to better quality and cheaper products.

All the items a soldier needs are manufactured by the supply factories, and these include small arms such as the Nasr automatic rifle, the Aswan light machinegun, the Hulwan pistol, and all types of ammunition and mortars of various calibers. The electronics factory (the Arab Industrialization Organization) manufactures all types of radio and cable communication systems.

Dr Eng Jamal al-Sayyid, Egyptian military production minister, concluded his statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by saying: We have come a long way before embarking on the stage of true production. And we have the capability to meet Arab requests should any Arab, Islamic, or African state make a request. We are proceeding on the basis of supporting our brothers. We are not arms traders, but we believe that whoever possesses the arms possesses the freedom to make decisions.

Libya

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives, Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1208002088 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Brother Yasir 'Arafat.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat and an accompanying delegation arrived at Tripoli International Airport yesterday [11 August] on a visit to the great Jamahiriyah. Brother Yasir 'Arafat made a statement to a JANA representative saying: It is well known, the blessed uprising of our people against Israeli occupation is an uprising that is escalating day after day in steadfastness against the Israeli land, sea, and air raids against our people. Most recently, two days ago, there were 11 raids over the course of 2 and ½ hours. Our people are standing fast in all their positions.

He added: Along with the events in the Palestinian arena, the Jordanian measures for disengaging legal and administrative links with the West Bank will have a great effect with a crucial and important bearing on the overall situation. Therefore I found it my duty to come here and discuss with the brother colonel the various developments in the Palestinian arena.

Iraqi Envoy Delivers Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

JN1008144288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Aug (INA)—RCC member Sa'dun Shakir, President Saddam Husayn's envoy, has conveyed a message from his excellency to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. This came when the Libyan leader received Sa'dun Shakir in Benghazi last night.

Comparison of Al-Qadhdhafi Interview on West Bank

Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic at 1207 GMT on 11 August broadcasts a recording of the interview Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi gave to Radio Monte Carlo containing an offer to pay salaries on the West Bank. The Tripoli version has been compared with the Monte Carlo version published in the 11 August Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 18, revealing the following variations:

Page 19, column one, from the end of paragraph seven, the Tripoli version reads: ... rule until 1967.

The Palestinian masses have lost confidence in King Husayn. Consequently, he lost nothing when he announced his decision. This is his position: The decision conforms to King Husayn's position, which does not not slow down or accelerate as far as Palestine is concerned. The Palestinian masses have been dissatisfied with King Husayn since he expelled the resistance from it in April-May 1970 and since he started protecting Israelis across the River Jordan. He is preventing the fedayeen from liberating their land and carrying out guerrilla operations in Palestine via the Jordanian front. Therefore, the Palestinian masses have lost confidence and their [word indistinct] ties with King Husayn have been severed.

[Abu Samrah] You said... (adding paragraph)

On page 19, column two, paragraph four, the Tripoli version reads ...the correct path.

On this occasion, I want to address the following call to my brothers in the occupied land and the leaders of the uprising of the generation of anger: In addition to what they are doing now, I call on them to undertake covert (?violent) resistance similar to what EOKA [National Organization of Cypriot Struggle] used to do in Cyprus to liberate it from British colonialism. EOKA's method must be adopted, which means working normally during the day and covert armed resistance at night. I also call on them to carry out covert sabotage against the Zionist entity and its institutions in order for it to record these sabotage operations against unknowns [sentence as heard]. I also call on them to continue popular rejection and move on to civil disobedience. We must make Israelis understand that for every martyr falling, a member of the occupation forces will be killed. If a martyr falls, we must kill an Israeli by any means to avenge the Palestinian martyr's death. I call on them to carry out this uprising so that the Palestinian state will emerge as it was originally meant to in 1948. Liberation must be... (supplying additional material)

Envoys Sent To Explain Arab Union Plan

LD1108210588 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Envoys have been visiting Arab countries carrying letters from the brother leader to Arab presidents and kings over the all-Arab union plan, which was proposed by the brother leader to them at the emergency Arab summit held in Algiers.

Sources at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison told JANA that this plan has met with positive response from the Arab presidents and kings who received the envoys. The sources added that the mission of the envoys focussed on explaining the scope and aspects of the plan, as well as clarifying all its clauses.

Sudan Expresses Thanks for Flood Aid

LD1108185388 Tripoli JANA in English 1642 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal [Aug] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Aid extended by the Libyan Arab people of Great Jamahiriyah to its brother the Arab people of Sudan to alleviate the crisis caused by the floods in Sudan nowaday had continued.

Sources of the committee supervising the dispatch of the aid said that enormous quantities of all aspects of backing and support are being continuously shipped on Libyan Arab cargo planes. They include large quantities of tents, blankets, medicines and various provision materials.

The aid were met with thanks and gratitude from sisterly Sudan's government and people. 'Abd al-Majid Bashir al-Ahmadi, Sudan's ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah conveyed that to Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir the commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces during his reception yesterday.

Morocco

$2 Million Donated to Gulf Cease-Fire Costs

LD1108211088 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Morocco has placed at the disposal of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar a sum amounting to $2 million as its contribution to the cost needed to implement the measures of the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran.

His Majesty King Hassan II has sent the following telegram to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar:

Secretary General: Morocco, the land of dialogue, tolerance, and peace had the honor of playing host to the first ever Islamic conference in the history of Islam. Therefore, it could not remain indifferent to the noble initiatives which have been aimed at restoring peace between two great Islamic nations who were obliged by religion and neighborliness, in the past, to enrich civilization and development.

Considering all this, Morocco is placing at Your Excellency's disposal the sum of $2 million. This modest contribution will be handed over to you, toward the UN's cease-fire expenses, by our UN ambassador. Please, Mr Secretary General, accept our highest esteem, appreciation, and genuine hopes your efforts will reach a happy conclusion.

Briefs

Ambassador to Nepal

The Royal Government of Nepal has agreed to the appointment of Ahmed Drissi, currently Morocco's ambassador to Pakistan, as nonresident ambassador of his majesty in Kathmandu, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. [Text] [*LD1208040488 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Aug 88*]

Sudan

SUNA Reports Most Villages on Blue Nile Flooded

LD1108182188 Khartoum SUNA in English 1737 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 11 (SUNA)—Most of the villages on the eastern bank of the Blue Nile in the Central Region were flooded as the Blue Nile is dangerously getting high since yesterday.

An increasing number of citizens were affected while the security and the authorities have started relieving the people there.

Meanwhile, two Turkish military planes, loaded with 28 tonnes of food are due here tomorrow—Friday—the Turkish ambassador to Sudan announced today.

Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, will dispatch daily 4 to 5 planes, loaded with relief stuff.

This was disclosed here today following a meeting between Member of the Council of the State Mirghani al-Nasiri and the Saudi Ambassador to Sudan Dr. 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Sidri.

Relief Assistance Detailed

LD1108181088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Khartoum Aug 11 (SUNA)—The Federal Republic of Germany is due to dispatch an eight million deutschmarks worth of food stuff and drugs to Sudan, it was announced announced in Bonn yesterday. Reports from Bonn said 500 tons [of] food oil and drugs are due here soon.

The reports say DM 4 million worth of aid materials are due here today within the West German assistance to Sudan.

The West German move comes in response to Sudan's appeal to international community to overcome the floods and washouts catastrophe which hit the Sudan during last week leaving a million people homeless and devastating thousands of houses in the national capital and other region around the country.

Already the Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Arab Republic of Yemen, Italy, Britain, Libya and the U.S. have responded to Sudan's appeals.

The King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has earlier directed officials to do their utmost in helping Sudan overcome the current problem.

The Kingdom has dispatched seven planes loaded with flour, drugs, and canned food to rain and flood victims in Sudan and said more would come.

The Saudi ambassador to Sudan yesterday said his country would continue dispatching food and medical assistence to Sudan as it has been doing since 1985 when desertification and drought showed their unwelcomed [word indistinct] in Sudan.

Meanwhile Libya has dispatched a plane load of tent blankets and canned food, the Arab Republic of Yemen, has flown in three planes of food to Sudan out of an expected 15 planes.

Egypt which was the first country to respond to Sudan, has sent more than ten planes of assistance. [passage omitted]

Kuwait on the other hand has also sent two planes with relief assistance to Sudan.

So far about thirty planes carrying food materials have landed here, thirteen from Egypt, 7 from Saudi Arabia, four from Yemen, two from Kuwait, Britain, Libya, Italy and the United States each has sent one plane of relief material. Saudi Arabia expected to increase its airlifting to 30 planes and the Yemen to fifteen.

Ibn 'Umar Forces Urged To Surrender Weapons

LD1108181588 Khartoum SUNA in English 1739 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 11 (SUNA)—Sudan stressed that forces of Ibn 'Umar stationing now inside the Sudanese territory should yield their weapons to the Sudanese Armed Forces, Sudan's ambassador to Chad stated here Thursday.

Taha Makkawi who met here today with State Council Member Dr. 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din said Sudan will never let these foreign forces threaten Sudan's and Chad's security.

The ambassador also asserted that relations between Sudan and Chad are normal and that Chad should depend on Sudan's good intentions and its capacity to secure security at the two countries joint borders.

It's worth noting that some forces of Shaykh Ibn 'Umar, one of the Chadian opposition leaders, have late crossed into the Sudanese borders.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Iraqi Cargo Ship Arrives at 'Mouth of Gulf'

JN1008164588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The Al-Fujayrah port authorities have learned that the Iraqi cargo ship ("Al-Khawlah") arrived at Al-Fujayrah port, 100 km from the Strait of Hormuz, the day before yesterday. The ship will be subjected to technical inspection. The source noted that this is the first Iraqi cargo ship to enter Al-Fujayrah port at the mouth of the Gulf since the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran conflict in 1988 and the first Iraqi ship to enter the Gulf after the announcement of a cease-fire in the Gulf war.

Bahrain

Heir Apparent Presides Over Council of Ministers

JN0708155888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Manama, 7 Aug 9 (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and acting prime minister, presided over the ordinary session of the Council of Ministers, in Manama today.

Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, development and industry minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs, made a statement after the meeting in which he said: The heir apparent and acting prime minister began by thanking and praising God for the recovery of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister, and for his departure from the Armed Forces Hospital in Riyadh, wishing him good health. [passage omitted]

Al-Shirawi continued: His highness the heir apparent and acting prime minister reviewed recent developments in the Gulf arena. His highness welcomed Iraq's response to the UN secretary general's efforts to implement UN Resolution No 598 in order to stop the fighting and end the Iraq-Iran war, a matter which will benefit the regional people and achieve stability in the region. [passage omitted]

Libyan Foreign Minister Arrives on 2-Day Visit

JN1108191088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Manama, 11 Aug (WAKH)—Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, arrived in Manama today on a 2-day visit to Bahrain.

Al-Talhi will convey a message to Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Talhi was received upon arrival by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message

JN1208081488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Manama, 12 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a written message from Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on bilateral relations and the recent Arab and Gulf developments. Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, conveyed the message during a meeting with the amir in Manama this morning.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister; and Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; attended the meeting.

Al-Talhi arrived in Manama last night on a 2-day visit to Bahrain within a regional tour.

Kuwait

Iranian 'Special Envoy' Meets With Prime Minister

LD0908142188 Tehran IRNA in English 1402 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 9, IRNA—Special envoy of the Islamic Republic Hojjat ol-Eslam Mostafa Fumani-Haeri met with Kuwaiti heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah here Tuesday.

Discussed at the meeting were Tehran-Kuwait relations and the latest developments in the situation of the Persian Gulf region. Hojjat Fumani is Iran's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

Foreign Minister Speaks 'Highly' of USSR Visit

LD1108204488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1909 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 11 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad returned home Thursday from Moscow, following a short visit, during which he headed the Arab seven-man committee, entrusted with following up the Iraq-Iran war.

He told KUNA that he and the Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi visited the Soviet Union, in the context of what was agreed upon during the committee's meeting, held in Baghdad recently.

Shaykh Sabah added, "We've exchanged views with Soviet officials on the latest developments in the area, particularly the announcement of the ceasefire and steps aimed at realising just and comprehensive peace between the two Moslem neighbors Iraq and Iran."

He indicated that he and Hammadi emphasized to Moscow officials the significance of (?real) steps leading to a ceasefire and engaging in the implementation of the remaining articles of Security Council Resolution 598, in addition to the vitality of the Soviets in this regard.

The Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign minister spoke highly of the understanding which the committee delegation sensed from Soviet officials toward the positive developments in the area, saying that they pledged to continue their role in establishing peace and stability in the region.

Shaykh Sabah, who was accompanied by ranking ministry officials, was received upon arrival by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and other senior ministry officials.

Oman

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Gulf Cease-Fire

JN1008145288 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The Sultanate of Oman has expressed deep satisfaction with the announcement made by the UN secretary general on Iraq's and Iran's acceptance of the cease-fire and their agreement to enter direct talks. A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry today said that as the Sultanate greets Iraq and Iran on this historic stand, it also praises the efforts exerted by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The Sultanate hopes that the negotiations will result in the return of security, tranquillity and relations of good neighborliness to the two Muslim countries, peace and stability in the Gulf area, and protection of the interests of the two countries' peoples.

Egypt's 'Abd al-Majid Talks With Official

JN1108164688 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] His Highness Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, received in his office this morning His Excellency Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The meeting was attended by his excellency's delegation: Yahya Rif'at, Egyptian assistant foreign minister; and Husayn 'Abd al-Khaliq Hassunah, director of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's office. The meeting was also attended by Fathallah al-Dal'i, Egyptian ambassador to the Sultanate.

The discussion dealt with the excellent relations between the two fraternal countries, the current situation in the Arab and international arenas, and issues of joint interest. They also discussed spheres of cooperation between the two countries and means to promote them in the service of the joint interests and Arab and Islamic issues.

Qatar

Cabinet Welcomes Cease-Fire, Pays Tribute to UN

JN1008152188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Doha, 10 Aug (WAKH)—In its regular weekly meeting today under His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, Qatari amir, the Qatari Council of Ministers welcomed the Iraq-Iran agreement on a cease-fire in the bloody 8-year war and also on direct negotiations which may open a new chapter in bialteral relations—a new chapter illuminated by the brilliance of wellbeing, amity, and good neighborliness.

The council also paid tribute to the efforts being exerted by the Untied Nations and its secretary general to reach an agreement on the comprehensive and full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

In this regard, the Council reiterated Qatar's firm and genuine stand which has displayed an eagerness to see a comprehensive, just, and durable peace established between the two Muslim neighboring states, as this peace would help preserve the Gulf region as a region of security and peace free of international conflicts. This peace would also help stabilize the region and direct its resources and potential to serve its security and peace, build its future, and realize its prosperity. [passage omitted]

PLO's 'Arafat Stops Over During Tour of Region

JN0908100688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Doha, 9 Aug (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Doha today from Kuwait on a visit to Qatar within the framework of his current tour of the region's states.

During the visit, 'Arafat will hold talks with Qatari officials on the situation in the region and ways to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Received by Amir

JN0908103488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Doha, 9 Aug (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today. His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, attended the meeting.

QNA said that during the meeting, the talks dealt with developments in the Palestine question on the Arab and international levels and ways to support the Palestinian people's valiant uprising in the occupied territories in the face of Zionist terrorism and repression.

His highness the Qatari amir reiterated Qatar's firm and principled stand supporting the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's struggle to attain their legitimate rights and establish their independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative.

Departs, Continues Tour

JN0908163688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Doha, 9 Aug (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Doha this afternoon at the end of a brief visit to the State of Qatar as part of a tour of a number of the region's states.

'Arafat was seen off by Khalid ibn 'Abdallah al-'Atiyyah, public works minister and acting municipal affairs minister.

Briefs

Decrees Appoint Ambassadors

Doha, 11 Aug [WAKH]—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, issued three decrees today appointing Jasim Yusuf Jamal as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Austria; 'Ali 'Abd al-Rahman Muftah as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Morocco; and Mubarak Nasir al-Kuwari as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Jordan. [Summary] [*JN1108124988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1125 GMT 11 Aug 88*]

Saudi Arabia

Editorial Urges Iran To 'Rethink' Policies

JN1108202088 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 10 Aug 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Iraq's Steadfastness and the Future of the Nation"]

[Text] All the Arabs from the Gulf to the ocean yesterday joined Iraq in celebrating its victory and the triumph of the will of peace over aggression and expansionism. Starting today, the guns of death both along Iraq's borders and in the entire region must fall silent forever so that the people of Iraq and Iran can devote their energies to rebuilding their countries, and drawing inspiration from shared religion, destiny, and geography. Those who have made aggression around the world a full-time job should learn a lesson from the tragedies of the Iraq-Iran war and do some soul searching to appreciate the full extent of the catastrophes that they cause for their peoples.

As Iraq celebrates victory, it demonstrates the Arab nation's might and capability to settle conflicts in its own interests. It is hoped that the past years of bloodshed can be turned into a future of peace and the Islamic nation can chart a new course of understanding to remove the obstacles to constructive Muslim solidarity that should help Muslims tackle challenges of the modern age.

A new Islamic future can only begin after each Muslim country knows its responsibilities in backing the Islamic cause. Further, every Islamic country must renounce individual, provincial goals which can only bring further disarray. Iran's leaders must be held responsible for offenses they committed against the Islamic nation and must face up to the truth and redress their mistakes, which, it must be said, were major blunders. If Iran is to be a good, active member of the Islamic community, it must rethink a good many of its policies, particularly the instillation of hatred against Muslims, especially the Arabs. It was such policies that led to Iran's defeat and caused crimes against the Muslims and their immortal message.

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Bank Official Stops Over

LD1108184488 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 11, IRNA—Governor of the Islamic Republic's Central Bank Majid Qasimi on his way back from Malaysia stopped here Thursday and met his U.A.E. counterpart 'Abd al-Malik al-Hamar.

In the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest in the fields of economiy and banking.

Later, Qasimi also met the U.A.E. Deputy Finance and Industry Minister Nasir al-Nuways and discussed with him economic cooperation, Islamic banking, and monetary contacts in international scenes.

Yemen Arab Republic

General Committee Views Iraq-Iran Cease-fire

JN1108203488 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today chaired a General Committee meeting during which a number of issues listed on the committee's agenda were discussed. Some of the issues discussed pertain to a number of reports submitted by the competent committees on the activities carried out by these committees.

The committee discussed a number of issues and latest developments pertaining to the Arab arena, including the efforts being exerted to end the Iraq-Iran war and establish peace between the two neighboring Muslim states. The committee voiced satisfaction over the two parties' acceptance of terminating the war between them, of a cease-fire, and also of direct negotiations under the

auspices of the UN secretary general to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598— which calls for resolving the problems between the two parties through peaceful means in order to establish a durable and comprehensive peace between the two countries.

Briefs

Outgoing Omani Ambassador

Brother al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, speaker of the Consultative Council and member of the Standing Committee, received at his office this morning Brother Rashid ibn Nasir al-Namashi, ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, on the expiry of his term in our country. Fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to promote them were discussed during the meeting. [Text] [*JN1008152988 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Aug 88*]

UN Mission Statemert on Military Situation

JN1108173088 Baghdad INA in English 1700 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] United Nations, Aug 11, INA—The following statement was issued today by the Iraqi mission to the United Nations as a press release:

Summary of the military situation in Iraq on August 10-11, 1988

1. The Iranian Armed Forces bombarded Iraqi military positions of the Third Army Corps sector (around Basra) with various weapons as follows: 214 howitzer projectiles; 205 mortar shells; and 32 small missiles

2. Iranian Armed Forces bombarded Iraqi positions in the Seventh Army Corps sector (around Al-Faw), as follows: 26 howitzer projectiles; 32 mortar shells; and 16 small missiles

3. Iranian Armed Forces fired 2 missiles from a tank on Iraqi positions in the northern sector.

4. Iranian Armed Forces fired 3 howitzer and 11 mortar shells against Iraqi positions in the Seventh Army Corps sector.

Staff Commander Awards Fighters Bravery Medals

JN1108185488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Aug (INA)—On behalf of President Saddam Husayn, the staff major general commander of the Al-Qadisiyah Forces decorated 640 fighters with bravery medals in acknowledgement of their heroism and bravery shown in defense of the nation's honor and dignity against the Iranian enemy in the glorious battle of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah.

Committee on Gulf War Returns to Baghdad

JN1108193088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Aug (INA)—The delegation of the seven-member Arab committee entrusted with following up developments of the Iraq-Iran war returned here today following a 2-day visit to the USSR. The delegation consists of Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir left Baghdad for Kuwait after a short stopover at Saddam International Airport.

RCC Envoy Shakir Leaves for Sudan With Message

JN0808103588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Aug (INA)—Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani, left Baghdad today. In a statement to INA, Sa'dun Shakir said he will convey, during a meeting, a message from President Saddam Husayn on the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war and peace efforts.

Envoy Departs With Message for PDRY President

JN0908150088 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 9, INA—Member of the Revolution Command Council Mr Hasan 'Ali left for Aden today with a message from President Saddam Husayn to President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas of the Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The presidential envoy said the message is pertaining to efforts aimed at establishing peace between Iraq and Iran and the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 on bringing about a just and comprehensive peace.

Returns From Arab Tour

JN1208074688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Aug (INA)—Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, returned here today at the end of his tour of the PDRY, Djibouti, and Somalia. In a statement to INA, Hasan 'Ali said he conveyed messages from President Saddam Husayn to the presidents of the PDRY, Djibouti, and Somalia on bilateral relations and Iraq's firm stand on achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace with Iran through direct talks.

Use of Chemical Warfare Alleged Against Kurds

NC1208071188 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 10 Aug 88 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] Semdinli (A.A.)—The Iraqi Armed Forces, which opened a new front in the Iran-Iraq war after Iran agreed to a cease-fire, are currently engaged in violent clashes in "mopping up" operations against separatist forces in northern Iraq. Kurdish peshmerga affiliated with Mas'ud Barzani are reportedly under siege in the Gimo and "Beruc" [name as published] regions. Meanwhile, Iraq has reportedly used chemical weapons during the clashes. [passage omitted]

Twenty-two peshmerga have crossed into Turkey from Iraq, together with 21 women and 16 children, seeking protection from the gendarmerie guard post in Samanli village. It has been determined that the peshmerga are Turkish citizens who had lived in peshmerga camps in northern Iraq for a long time.

The clandestine Voice of the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan, which broadcasts from northern Iraq and is heard clearly in the border areas, has claimed that Iraqi Government forces have been using chemical weapons in the clashes. The radio called on the separatist forces in various parts of northern Iraq to help the Kurds in the "Beruc" region, which has become the scene of intensified clashes.

Officials Reject Al-Qadhdhafi Offer on Salaries

TA1208113888 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Aug 88 p 2

[ITIM, REUTER report]

[Text] Israeli officials yesterday rejected Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's offer to pay the salaries of civil servants in the territories instead of Jordan.

"This is ridiculous," said Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's spokesman. "The responsibility for these territories is ours and we will take care of the population as we have for the past 21 years."

Al-Qadhdhafi told Radio Monte Carlo in an interview on Wednesday that Libya is willing to pay the salaries of "our brothers who have been expelled from their jobs and who are oppressed."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the offer is not serious. "I do not believe that this offer can be implemented. I do not believe that the residents of the West Bank are at all interested in it. These are just words," he said.

Al-Shawwa Comments

JN1108160088 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has expressed his readiness to pay $1 million per month to civil servants of the West Bank whose salaries have been cut off by Jordan. This subject, along with a list of candidates for a Palestinian parliament, are now the talk of the people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Colleague Ibrahim Shahid has phoned [former Gaza Mayor] Hajj Rashad al-Shawwa to sound him out.

[Begin recording] [Shahid] Hajj Rashad al-Shawwa, Good evening.

[Al-Shawwa] Good evening.

[Shahid] Your name figured together with those of over 150 figures from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the document that was found in Faysal al-Husayni's home on the eve of his arrest. These figures were proposed as members of the Palestinian parliament. What do you think?

[Al-Shawwa] This is news to me. I know nothing about this. I have neither been consulted nor told by anyone about such a parliament being set up.

[Shahid] And what about your name appearing on this long list?

[Al-Shawwa] I don't have to comment on that, Mr Ibrahim. How can there possibly be a Palestinian parliament while we are under occupation? How would I have the guts to say anything when whoever utters a word is banished to Lebanon? How can anyone in a parliament under Israeli occupation have freedom of thought, let alone of speech? Naturally, such a move is out of the question.

[Shahid] Moving to another topic, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared his readiness to pay salaries to civil servants whose salaries have been suspended by Jordan. He also said he is prepared to pay approximately $1 million. And, by way of a reminder, the payments of the 21,000 civil servants amounted to $5.5 million per month. What do you think?

[Shawwa] It would be a good idea if Al-Qadhdhafi were sent a list of beneficiaries of aid in the West Bank and Gaza Strip so he may be in the true picture of the statistics. The $1 million he is talking about falls short of what the Gaza Strip receives from Jordan monthly.

[Shahid] Thanks, Hajj Rashad al-Shawwa.

[Al-Shawwa] Thank you. [end recording]

Mubarak Peace Plan Reportedly Excludes Husayn

TA1208090988 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Aug 88 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir, New York correspondent Ya'aqov Eylon, Shmu'el Tal, and Bo'az Orgad]

[Excerpt] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is initiating a new Middle East peace plan including the PLO but without the active participation of King Husayn. Israel has obtained initial details of the plan, which will be submitted to the parties early next year, immediately after the Israeli and U.S. elections.

According to information that has reached Jerusalem, Egypt will offer interim arrangements for the West Bank, involving Israel and the Palestinians, whose specifics will be worked out in direct negotiations between Israel and a delegation of Palestinian leaders from the territories, under U.S. and Egyptian aegis. The Mubarak plan does not mention an international conference, but it does include elements from the Camp David accords and the Reagan Middle East plan.

It has been learned that Mubarak is currently applying the final touches to his plan in a bid to reach a prior understanding with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on the composition of the Palestinian delegation. The plan proposes an interim arrangement for a transitional period which will apparently last between 3 and 5 years, based on an agreement the sides will reach on the matter. It will be followed by direct negotiations between Israel, the Palestinians, and Jordan on permanent arrangements in the territories and the demarcation of the Israeli-Jordanian border. [passage omitted]

Shim'on Peres on Negotiations, Labor Platform

TA1208065788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Telephone interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] Good morning, sir.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Friedman] King Husayn, in an interview to the influential U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST, has said that as far as Jordan is concerned, the Israeli option does not exist. Logically one can also say the opposite—namely that as far as Israel is concerned, the Jordanian option does not exist. Do you disagree with this analysis?

[Peres] I am starting to have difficulty understanding what constitutes an option. Our longest border is the one we share with Jordan. Does Husayn want war? Do we want war? There is no Jordanian or Israeli option in the simple sense of the word; the option is peace or the absence of peace. The latter prospect would lead the region to war, whereas peace would advance the welfare of all the people in the region.

[Friedman] Husayn, however, is saying that peace negotiations over Judaea and Samaria should be held with the Palestinians rather than with himself.

[Peres] Are the Palestinians responsible for the Jordan River? The Palestinians are responsible for only one segment—namely, the Palestinian problem. We have always believed that we should negotiate both with Jordan and the Palestinians, with Jordan being responsible for the borders and the Palestinians carrying the burden of the Palestinian problem. We must not ignore the facts and get caught up in rhetoric. The main question is: What does Jordan want—peace or war? What does Israel want—to take the initiative in peace or to sit idly by and allow the Arabs, the Soviets, and the rest of the world to handle our affairs? If we do not take the initiative—and this is what the Likud is proposing—others will take it. Look how many things have deteriorated over the last 2 years; before this national unity government was established we were involved in a war in Lebanon and now we have the intifada [uprising]. How are we going to extricate ourselves from this? [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Earlier you said that we should speak with Palestinians as well. Now the Labor Party is considering changing its platform to allow for separate negotiations with a Palestinian delegation over interim arrangements in Judaea and Samaria. What kind of Palestinian delegation will this be and who will be on it: those who were scheduled to meet with Murphy in Cairo but in the end did not meet with him?

[Peres] First, this is nothing new; it was included in the previous platform as well. We have said that we agree to speak with Jordanians and with Palestinians who are not involved in terrorism and who accept 242. When I was prime minister a list of five Palestinians was submitted to me, and I agreed to the names of Hanna Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah because they are not PLO members, their personal opinions aside; we do not censor personal opinions. My point is that we can find what I termed authentic representatives of the Palestinian case. There is no point in searching for Palestinians or Jordanians before Israel has made a decision, and we must stop this constant flow of rhetoric.

[Friedman] You know that these authentic Palestinians...

[Peres, interrupting] Look, we must stop confusing ourselves. A year ago we could have launched negotiations. We were not without an Arab partner; we were without an Israeli decision, and without such a decision there is no point in traveling all over the world asking everyone's opinion, because everyone is asking for our opinion, asking whether there is a decision in Israel itself. In the upcoming elections, therefore, Israel will not have to decide who is the Arab partner; it must decide that it is taking the peace initiative into its own hands.

It must not leave the initiative to Husayn with his speeches, 'Arafat with his nonsense, and the Soviets with their declarations. We must take the lead in the process. It is time to forgo this political indolence. We must abandon the superstition that the status quo will save us; it will not save us, because the Arab birth rate is very high. If there is no Israeli initiative for peace, there will be a war initiative on the part of the rejectionist front.

[Friedman] You mentioned Hanna Sinyurah. Let me remind you that several days ago he expressed public support for the Al-Husayni document.

[Peres] Anyone is entitled to express whatever opinions he wants...

[Friedman, interrupting] So what is the difference between him and the PLO...

[Peres, interrupting] There are also Israelis who expressed support for the Al-Husayni document; so what? The question is whether they formally belong to an organization that wants to destroy Israel, is actively involved in terrorism, is against 242 [resolution], and does not recognize Israel's right to exist.

[Dan] Mr Peres, the question is who will represent the Palestinian population? We know that there is no Palestinian leadership and there is no evidence that such leadership is about to arise.

[Peres] In my opinion, a Palestinian delegation can be formed. The fact that there is no such delegation also stems from the fact that we have made no decision.

[Dan] Most of the Palestinians, however, regard the PLO as their representative.

[Peres] As long as they regard the PLO as their representative, they are in trouble. We, however, must take the initiative. Look, we have initiated many things: The open bridges policy was not initiated by the PLO; the PLO has also opposed the rehabilitation of refugees in Gaza, but we did not listen to it. Should we automatically accept whatever anybody says?

[Friedman] Mr Peres, in a ceremony launching the Alignment election campaign, you said that seeing that if people want a map we will show them one: the Allon plan. Apparently you also have a partner, Ari'el Sharon, who is proposing that we implement Israeli law over the areas included in the Allon plan.

[Peres] What kind of comparison is this? Allon proposed entering negotiations in order to reach an agreed upon map. Sharon is proposing unilateral annexation, and he does not say what will happen in the areas we will not annex. This amounts to annexation under camouflage of another 1 and ½ million Arabs, a thing which endangers the Jewish majority in Israel. [passage omitted]

David Levi Against 'Israeli Law' in Territories

TA1208083788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi is against the idea of implementing Israeli law in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Mr Levi said that Israel must unequivocally adhere to the Camp David agreements. Minister Levi made these remarks upon returning from the United States where he underwent eye surgery. Mr Levi sharply criticized Prof Yoram Las, director general of the Health Ministry, regarding his surgery. Mr Levi said he will discuss this issue with the health minister.

'Amirav Discloses PLO Attempts at Dialogue

TA1108120688 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by Tuvya Basskind and Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Moshe 'Amirav, a member of the Center-Shinuy Movement Executive Committee, said yesterday that in recent years non-Israeli elements relayed a message from top PLO officials to Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Shamir that the PLO is willing to negotiate peace based on mutual recognition. According to 'Amirav, among these mediators was Claude Cheysson, the former French foreign minister and the EC chairman. His attempts and others, however, were met with mistr[illegible] and rejection on the part of Peres and Shamir. They preferred to ignore the signals sent to them in the name of the PLO, said 'Amirav.

In an interview with the East Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI, 'Amirav disclosed that about a year ago a Palestinian delegation headed by Faysal al-Husayni was scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

The idea was not rejected at the time. The meeting eventually did not come through because Shamir was frightened at the prospect of such contacts with the Palestinians developing further and because 'Amirav's meetings with Al-Husayni were disclosed by the media.

Pro-Amman Daily Sees 'Collapse' of Jordan Option

TA1008153788 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 9 Aug 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Option Is the Path to a Solution"]

[Text] Ever since Jordan began adopting its recent measures, King Husayn has not spared any occasion or opportunity to affirm with absolute frankness and clarity to Arab and international journalists—the latest time being 2 days ago—that Jordan is committed to supporting the kinfolk in the occupied territories and that the Jordanian measures were taken to remove the sensitivities and doubts that have always been a source of tension with and lack of confidence in the PLO. Jordan adopted a series of measures that put an end to wrong ideas that had tried to interpret Jordanian policies in the occupied areas as an attempt to bypass the PLO or that Jordan was competing with the PLO.

King Husayn's statement also put an end to a great many fears and rumors circulated by adversaries as a result of Jordan's continuing moves over two decades in which it succeeded in convincing all countries and international public opinion that there is no solution to the Palestinian problem except through an international peace conference attended by all parties, including the PLO and the Security Council's five permanent member states. This would not have been possible without the immense effort exerted by his majesty at all levels and in various international forums.

King Husayn made a remark worth focusing on; namely, that these measures were irrevocable even if the Arabs were to ask that they be revoked or even if circumstances were to change. Perhaps this is what the PLO wanted to hear in order to resolve to move forward in shouldering its responsibilities and for it to realize that the Palestinian problem—in all its aspects—is not the only thing that has been thrust on its shoulders, but that it has also become responsible for managing the affairs and solving the problems of the people in the occupied territories. Thus, the way has been paved and is now open for the PLO to represent the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories through Arab support and aid, headed by Jordan which has provided and will continue to provide every support and assistance to the Palestinian people and its uprising.

There were two fundamental questions that preoccupied the residents in the occupied territories, that of open bridges and of the passports held by West Bank residents. His majesty settled this matter conclusively and put an end to all interpretations and speculations when he stated that the bridges will not be closed, because they are the lifeline between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples as well as with the Arab world.

As for the passports, they will remain with those who carry them in the West Bank until the hope is realized and a Palestinian state is able to provide them with a Palestinian passport. Such stances and policies are a translation of Jordan's pan-Arab role toward all the problems of the Arab nation in general and its central problem—the Palestinian problem—in particular.

If the recent Jordanian steps have defined the outlines of the future course, perhaps their most important accomplishment was to eliminate what certain parties had been propagating, namely the Jordanian option, as the best option for resolving the Palestinian problem. In fact these parties were only seeking to neutralize the Palestinian option, as if the Palestinian problem can be resolved by means or at the expense of Jordan. With the collapse of the Jordanian option everyone now, including the United States and Israel, must deal directly with the PLO on everything that concerns the Palestinian people's problem.

'Text' of Palestinian 'Independence Document'

TA1208105388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Aug 88 p 10

["Below is the text of the 'independence document,' said to have been written by Palestinian leaders in the territories, detailing a plan to establish a Palestinian state within the partition boundaries"—POST subhead; italics as published]

[Text] The announcement in Jerusalem of the independence document will herald the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the partition boundaries, as determined in 1947 and by the (UN) Security Council in Resolution 181. Its capital will be Jerusalem and its interim government will consist of two parts: Those who are in exile and those who reside on Palestinian soil.

The state will be headed by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO executive committee. Faruq Qaddumi, who heads the PLO's political department, will serve as foreign minister in the new government. PLO executive committee members will be considered members of the new government. It will also include Messrs. George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) and Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP (Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine).

In parallel, the Palestine National Council will be proclaimed the new state's parliament. It will include personalities from the occupied territories. Their names will be declared in the Declaration of Independence. PLO representations abroad will automatically be regarded as the new Palestinian state's legations.

An interim administrative body will be set up in the occupied territories. It will deal with various internal administrative matters, such as health, education, social welfare, law, police, agriculture, industry, commerce, construction, electricity, water, municipalities, press and media affairs. This is done through a hierarchy in which every department has its own internal bylaws.

The Objective

This programme aims at moving from the phase of clashes with stones on the battlefront to the stage of political initiative through a diplomatic mechanism initiatied by the Palestinian side, which will provide the blessed "uprising" with renewed momentum toward an international conference.

This technique will have a stronger influence on diplomatic activity than any other political initiative that could be presented by the Palestinian side. It will give the Palestinians a tremendous bargaining chip because the issue for debate both in the international and Israeli arenas will change from a demand that the PLO recognize Israel as a precondition for negotiations to a demand that the international community recognize the state established by the efforts of the Palestinian people, whose lands were occupied by the Hebrew state.

The above does not mean an end to the blessed uprising, but an escalation which lifts it to the level of the proposed national state.

Projected Scenario

Israel will find itself subjected to diplomatic pressure on the international level, especially if the declaration of the state will be accompanied by an active diplomatic campaign led by the political department in the PLO through its representitives around the world. Friendly countries will be asked to officially recognize the new Palestinian state while countries with diplomatic relations with Israel will be called on to create parallel representations in the Palestinian state, as well as having economic and trade relations with it.

Of course, the Israeli authorities are going to carry out an arrest campaign against all those who have any relationship, whether from near or far, with the draft of a Declaration of Independence. It will also put obstacles in order to stop Palestinian personalities and delegations from participating in a national conference in Jerusalem in which this independence will be declared. But the media coverage that will accompany these events will give the uprising a new face in which the characteristics

of the newborn state would be reflected. This will be especially true in the eyes of the people who will see in this new state a renewed incentive to continue the resistance. They will support it in order to plant the seeds for a new infrastructure based on popular committees. Therefore, they will heed its directives and respect its guidelines as a national alternative to the occupation.

The popular committees deployed throughout the territories will gain official status as branches of the new state, helping to continue the growth and development of the state apparatus.

Regarding the Israeli position: It will be unable to fight against, strangle, or abort the "newborn." The "newborn"—"the state struggling to save itself from occupation"—will be accorded respect and admiration by all forces worldwide, including those that support Israel. Internally, Israel will be divided because the voices demanding recognition of the "newborn" will increase, especially since this "newborn" has come into being as the result of heroic labour pains, witnessed by everyone. This is also true because the nature of the new state will confirm that it is not aggressive, and that the Palestinian people do not desire the annihilation of the state of Israel. Rather, they wish to live peacefully as its neighbour.

The announcement of the Declaration of Independence, as outlined above, does not necessarily mean the creation of an interim Palestinian government-in-exile, as has been suggested by Arab leaders in the past. Instead, it will mean the birth of a Palestinian state in the homeland. In order to reach this objective, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, in Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine, will take the responsibility of carrying out this objective. Our people will thus hold the reins of the initiative even as they are setting up their state on their national land, instead of persistently demanding that other parties—especially the international conference and the United States—establish such a state.

Contents of the Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence will have the following points:

—The geography of the state will be within the partition plan of 1948;

—The executive of the state will consist of:

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state;

Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister;

PLO Executive Committee members—members of the new government;

The membership will include Messrs. George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah.

—A general legislative body in the occupied territories made up of personalities who will be considered automatically members of the Palestine National Council. The Unified Leadership of the Uprising will nominate the following names in one of its communiques:

(Follows a list of 152 names of well-known Palestinian personalities from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including 18 women, mayors and former mayors, heads of trade unions and professional societies, educators, doctors, artists, and community leaders)

—An administrative board assigned from the abovementioned legislative body will temporarily carry the affairs of the interim government inside the occupied territories. This body will consist of representatives from within the community distributed according to geographic and specialty considerations.

—The interim government will proclaim, on behalf of the PLO, its readiness to appoint a specialized delegation whose members will be people from within and outside the occupied homeland. Its mission will be to launch negotiations toward reaching a final settlement with Israel. The negotiations will centre on the following points:

1) The final borders between the Palestinian state and Israel;

2) The political and practical link and ties between the two portions of the Palestinian state—Gaza and the West Bank;

3) Issues connected to the network of (Jewish) settlements planted in the occupied territories;

4) The nature of relations between the two countries, with special emphasis on basic necessities needed for the survival of the state, particularly the issue of water;

5) The issue of the refugees' right of return, or their right to compensation in accordance with UN resolutions.

The declaration of independence will be preceded by consultations with the Arab countries and friendly nations, especially with the Soviet Union. This consultation is not for the purpose of requesting permission from these countries, but in order to guarantee their needed support to this state.

The nature of the independent Palestinian state will be a republic—elected president, ministerial council made up of elected parties. The state will allow multiple political parties and religions, and the freedom of all believers to worship. It will guarantee the human, economic, and political rights of individuals and the community. It will guarantee for the citizen to live in freedom, dignity, and the pursuit of happiness. It will guarantee to him all the rights stated in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, including the freedom of expression,

education, and ownership. It will provide for him health, social, economic, educational and agricultural possibilities so that he can build a bright future for himself and his children.

The declaration for the creation of a Palestinian state means forcing an accomplished fact on Israel, the Arab countries, and the world community, which will have no way out of dealing with this reality created by the uprising.

All the citizens of the occupied territories will be expected to carry out the orders and instructions issued by the new state, its various executive institutions, and operational bodies as expressed through the popular committees which are subordinate to the Unified National Command. The residents will similarly be expected to surrender their Israeli identity cards and exchange them for Palestinian cards which will be issued by the interim government. These will be distributed by the popular committees. Foreign reporters, visitors and tourists will be expected to obtain travel documents from the interim government's institutions in order to enter the state.

The PNC will be called for a new session. One week before the start of the session the Unified Leadership will announce the Declaration of Independence and the Palestine National Council will discuss it and approve all of its detail.

Final note:

Following recognition of the state and the withdrawal of the Israeli army, arrangements will immediately be made for free, direct elections to form the new government and name a new president whose authority will be decided by the parliament after its first session, forming the first elected government for the new Palestinian state.

Infantry Commander Arad on IDF Redeployment

TA0908164788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] As the result of new planning carried out by the IDF, the infantry has caught up on its training schedule. This was reported by Brigadier General Shmu'el Arad, chief infantry and paratroop officer, who is completing his term in office at the end of this week. Our correspondent Asaf Ashkenazi spoke with Gen Arad.

[Begin recording] [Ashkenazi] Brig Gen Shmu'el Arad believes that in the next war, infantry will again be the decisive force. Infantry and paratroop actions will have an honorable role in the future battlefield. To maintain a high operational ability, however, the troops must be trained. The uprising in the territories had disrupted their maneuvers, but the regular infantry units have now caught up on their schedule, closing the gap, says Gen Arad.

[Arad] This new balance was undoubtedly achieved through the new IDF deployment, which reflects long-range planning and a proper deployment of reserves.

[Ashkenazi] Gen Arad added that no amount of exercise is ever sufficient where live firing and general practicing of assault forces is concerned. We are in good shape, however, considering the budget restrictions, he said.

[Arad] There is no army in the world that trains with the intensity of the IDF, and this includes both general maneuvers and fire practice. In a war, training saves human lives—the IDF is guided by this principle.

[Ashkenazi] In the next few years, the emphasis will be on training the assault force in interservice maneuvers. As for procurement, the development of a new personal weapon is planned, as is better night-sight equipment and sophisticated light-weapon sights, which will be introduced in the near future. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 9 August quotes the chief infantry and paratroop officer as saying that "the IDF has begun acquiring Israeli-made B-300 antitank grenade launchers. These will replace the RPG's that have been in use since the Yom Kippur War. The new grenade launcher has greater range, accuracy, and penetrating ability, and will improve the IDF's ability to tackle the enemy's tanks."—FBIS]

Hurvitz: Wipe Arab Villages 'Off Face of Earth'

TA1208121388 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Aug 88 pp A1, 2

[Text] Minister Without Portfolio Yiga'el Hurvitz says that if the uprising in the territories continues to endanger Israel's foundations, it will have to be "uprooted with an iron fist." Hurvitz said that the steps will have to go as far as demolishing entire streets in Arab villages, "wiping villages off the face of the earth" and deporting their inhabitants.

Hurvitz told MA'ARIV that Husayn's steps have increased the burdens on the Palestinians, and their distress may get them back to work and calm them down. If they do not calm down, however, and if they continue with their terrorist activities, "we will have to uproot them with an iron fist."

When asked what he meant by an iron fist, the minister said:

"I will say it straight. At the time of the War of Independence our leaders were not tyrants, they were not bloodthirsty. But when it came down to a situation where the foundations of the state were in danger, when we could not travel from the north to the Negev, they started to deport Arabs and they wiped out their villages. Today we can still live with the Arabs' conduct. If, however, it becomes clear that they have lost their heads and they do not give up and stop threatening our infrastructure, we will have no choice but to act firmly.

This means that we will have to demolish entire streets instead of individual homes. We will do so if we have to. If a situation similar to that during the War of Independence recurs, we will have to act the way we did then".

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Two Arabs Injured in Jabalyah

TA1008043188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 10 aug 88

[Text] The curfew on the Al-Shati' and Al-Burayj refugee camps in the Gaza Strip was lifted early this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that there have recently been disturbances in these camps. Two Arab residents were injured in a violent riot in the Jabalyah refugee camp last night. This morning, Arab workers left for work in Israel as usual.

Soldier Hurt in Ramallah

TA1008111188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Two firebombs were thrown at an army patrol in downtown Ramallah a short while ago. Reporter Steve Rodan says a soldier was hurt and was taken to a local hospital. The car was damaged. The army closed the area and began a search.

Palestinians Report 324 Dead

TA1008140088 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 10 Aug 88 p 5

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 8 August, the 245th day of the uprising, the IDF spokesman reported 185 Palestinian fatalities. The figure does not include those killed by Jewish settlers or in other circumstances.

According to a HA'OLAM HAZE count, the number of Palestinian fatalities since the start of the intifada [uprising] is 249.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 324 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

—215 fatalities from shots fired by IDF soldiers and Jewish settlers.

—59 fatalities from asphyxiation.

—22 fatalities from beating and electrocutions.

—28 fatalities from other causes.

Teenager Killed in Tubas

TA1108043288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] An Arab teenager was killed by Army fire when a military water carrier was attacked in the Samarian village of Tubas last night. Earlier, an Israeli soldier was wounded in Ramallah from a firebomb. More from Steve Rodan:

The shooting took place last night when an Army water carrier was traveling near the village of Tubas, south of Janin. The truck came under a hale of stones and other objects. Military sources said the armed escort of the driver determined that those in the truck were in danger and opened fire. A 17-year-old Tubas resident was shot and taken to a hospital in Nabulus, where he died on the operating table.

In Ramallah yesterday afternoon, Palestinians threw firebombs at an Army patrol in Manara Square. One of the bombs fell on the roof of an Army jeep and exploded. An Army reservist inside was wounded and taken to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. The second firebomb landed in the street where it exploded. A 60-year-old Arab woman was wounded lightly in her leg. The Army closed off the area, conducted searches, and arrested several people.

Disturbances were also reported in Janin, Tulkarm, and Hebron. The Gaza Strip was rocked by disturbances. Arab youths attacked Army vehicles and Israeli cars, in what military and Arab sources say is a nightly display of violence in the Gaza Strip.

Hunger Strike at Ansar-3 Camp

TA1108104788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Aug 88 p 2

[Report by Andy Court]

[Text] Security prisoners at the Ansar 3 detention camp in Qetzi'ot began a hunger strike yesterday, according to a letter reportedly smuggled out of the prison.

A delegation of five American physicians and attorneys, meanwhile, harshly criticized conditions at the isolated camp. They said prisoners were kept in overcrowded tents, provided with insufficient food and water, and denied adequate medical care.

The IDF spokesman, however, responded that Ansar 3 met international standards and was operated in accordance with military law. It added that the delegation was a tool in the American-Arab anti-Discrimination Committee's (ADC) "propaganda war" against Israel.

The army would neither confirm nor deny the report on the hunger strike. The Alternative Information Centre, a left-wing Jewish-Arab news service in West Jerusalem, said it obtained a letter signed by security prisoners at Ansar 3 reporting the strike.

The letter demands that authorities close the facility, Ansar 3, which holds between 2,500 and 3,500 prisoners, is located in the desert near the Egyptian border.

The prisoners also call for an end to administrative detentions and to their "automatic renewal" by authorities once the initial detention period, of up to six months, is over.

The American doctors and attorneys who criticized the conditions at Ansar 3 said that their trip was financed by several U.S.church organizations and the ADC. Government officials repeatedly refused to let them visit Ansar 3, or even to meet with them, they said.

Their information comes from interviews with about 25 recently released prisoners as well as written reports by journalists and human rights organizations.

Sanitary conditions in the camp are poor, the delegation said. Latrines that are rarely emptied foul the air, and tents are overcrowded, with at least 28 people to a tent.

Detainees are forced to sit in awkward positions for hours in the hot desert sun, said delegation member A. Bates Butler III, a former U.S. Attorney for Arizona and lecturer on international law.

Former detainees also complain that they were beaten while being transported to and from the detention centre, and that they were punished by being placed in hot, cramped cells, Butler said. Some detainees were reportedly bound in the painful "banana position," with their hands tied to their feet.

The average weight loss of detainees was 15 to 20 kilograms, which was attributable to the poor conditions and inadequate food supply, according to Dr. Edward Crippen, an international health consultant from Oregon.

Other delegation members were Mary Howell of New Orleans, a civil rights lawyer; James Harrington of Texas, author of a book on constitutional law, and Dr. Bara Berg of Minnesota, a health specialist. The group has spent eight days in Israel.

The army has allowed journalists, human rights organizations, and the International Red Cross to inspect Ansar 3, but it will not allow visits by delegations sponsored by "organizations known to be hostile to Israel," the spokesman said. Organizations like the ADC "systematically exploit innocent people and voluntary organizations that deal with human rights," to serve their "propaganda war against the State of Israel," the spokesman added.

Woman Sentenced for Assault

TA1108124188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The Nabulus military court handed down an 8-month prison sentence and a 6-month suspended sentence on Bayta resident Munira Da'ud, who was convicted of attacking Romam Aldubi. The court took into consideration the fact that the defendant's brother was killed in the incident and that her house had been demolished.

Hebron House Demolished

TA1108154888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The Ramallah military court today filed charges against a resident of the village of Dayr Samit, near Hebron, who is suspected, among other things, of stabbing Hebron resident Yona Chaikin over a month ago. This is 'Eran Ben-Porat reporting.

The other charges against Amjad 'Abd al-Sharawnah include: belonging to Fatah, possession of a Karl Gustav gun, and attacking various vehicles with Molotov cocktails. The youth is also suspected of shooting at the house of the Dayr Samit council head, as well as attempting to commit arson at the village council building. He is also accused of disrupting public transportation. According to the charges, last February he tried to block a road to prevent a bus picking up workers from leaving. When the bus driver left the vehicle to remove the obstacle from the road, the defendant commandeered the bus and drove away to his village, leaving the driver behind.

During the investigation, 'Abd al-Sharawnah admitted to all the charges. His house was later demolished.

Janin Youth Slightly Wounded

TA1108192088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] An Arab youth from the Janin District village of Ya'bad sustained slight leg wounds this afternoon. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an IDF patrol was stoned during disturbances in the village. The soldiers opened fire, wounding Mahir Muhammad Sa'id, 16, in the leg. He was brought to the Nabulus hospital.

Disturbances are under way and tires are being burned in Khan Yunus, following reports about the death of the transient Arab worker who perished in the Or Yehuda fire on Tuesday.

Gaza Death, Al-Duhayshah Curfew

TA1208073388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Riyad Sulayman Abu Mandil of the Al-Mughazi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was killed last night and another inhabitant wounded when a group of local

residents attacked an IDF patrol in the camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus was told by military sources that the gang members were armed with axes and chains. The dead man, age 23, is known to have participated in previous disturbances and attacks against IDF soldiers. His body was transferred to the forensic institute. The wounded person was taken to a local hospital and another gang member was detained. Our correspondent notes there have recently been several disturbances in the Al-Mughazi refugee camp.

A curfew was imposed on the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem early this morning, following disturbances there last night. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew is still in effect in the towns of Qalqilyah and Qabatiyah. Part of Jerusalem Street in Ramallah, where an IDF soldier was wounded 2 days ago by a Molotov cocktail, is still closed.

SLA Soldier Wounded on Patrol in Security Zone

TA1008131088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier was wounded today during a terrorist attack along the security zone border. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the terrorists directed automatic weapons fire at an SLA patrol in the central sector of the security zone. The patrol returned fire, repelling the attackers.

Peres 'Not Optimistic' on Tabah Agreement

TA1108161488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Merely a pointed argument—this is how Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, defines yesterday's debate in the Inner Cabinet. Our correspondent Gadi Hitman heard Peres during his tour of Kefar Sava today.

[Begin recording] [Hitman] During his tour of Kefar Sava, the foreign minister was quick to reply to questions raised in the wake of yesterday's sharp argument in the Inner Cabinet. Shim'on Peres does not regard the session as irregular, and believes the leaked quotations were incorrect.

[Peres] I read the descriptions today, and I think they are somewhat extraordinary. There were no fists, no one blushed or flushed; there was simply a very poignant argument. Our argument is indeed most poignant. We live in a time when six out of seven wars have ended, or are about to be ended. It is impossible for ours to remain the only conflict.

[Hitman] Peres believes that the problem with the Inner Cabinet is the equal number of left-wing and right-wing ministers, which renders decision making difficult. He adds that the Inner Cabinet managed to make serious and important decisions in the past, and there is no reason why this should not continue.

Later, Peres was asked about the Tabah issue. He was not optimistic.

[Peres] We had, in fact, agreed on a framework of over 1 year, most of which was to have been taken up by conciliation efforts. Apparently, it is impossible to arrive at a compromise. In any event, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office is now managing the current attempt at a compromise, but I do not believe that anything will change even if he drags his feet for 6 or 9 more months.

[Hitman] Having come to the end of political questions within the very short news conference he held, Peres rushed off to continue his tour of Kefar Sava. [end recording]

Egyptian Official: No Compromise

TA1208120288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] A senior Egyptian official in Cairo has said that Egypt will not agree to any compromise on Tabah and that after the arbiters issue their ruling, it does not intend to make any concessions to Israel regarding anything related to the disputed area. The official told our correspondent Aharon Barne'a that Egypt will consider Tabah the same as any other Egyptian territory and will implement Egyptian law in the entire area. He said that Egypt will not make any concessions to Israelis regarding entrance to the area, ownership of the hotel, and the administrative and security arrangements in the area.

Likud, Tehiya Sign Surplus Votes Agreement

TA1108121588 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Aug 88 p 3

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpt] The Likud yesterday signed a surplus votes agreement with the Tehiya movement. A short time before the agreement was signed, Refa'el Eytan, head of the Tzomet Movement, addressed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, requesting that the Likud sign a surplus votes agreement with his movement. Shamir rejected his request. [passage omitted]

Kakh Presents Knesset List; Kahane Comments

TA1008140988 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Aug 88 p 4

[Report by Yoram Bar]

[Summary] Under tight police security, with MAPAM youth demonstrating outside, the Kakh movement held a news conference in Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv yesterday.

After Knesset Member Meir Kahane, the Kakh list includes Moshe Neimann, an educator and administrator from Mizpe Yeriho, one of the founders of Gush

Emunim; attorney Rahamim Kohen; Rabbi Avraham Toledano from Qiryat Arba'; and David Ben-David, an economist and a former Irgun member.

Kahane noted that "coexistence between Jews and Arabs is impossible. We used to be alone. Now, Deputy Defense Minister Mikha'el Deqel; Minister Yosef Shapira; and reserve General Rehav'am Ze'evi, advocate of the transfer idea, use the same language. There is no doubt that this time we will be the third largest faction in the Knesset, and, more importantly, that we will be able to tip the scales."

Center Movement Adds 'Shinuy' to Name

TA0808142288 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Aug 88 p 3

[Report by Lily Galili]

[Text] The Center Movement has decided to add the word "Shinuy" to its name, and will henceforth be called the "Center-Shinuy Movement."

The movement's administration thus accepted a proposal by Knesset Member Amnon Rubinstein, who raised the request because of the confusion caused upon the merger of Shinuy, the Liberal Center, and Independent Liberals. The new name is meant to emphasize Shinuy's prominence in the new movement.

Internal polls conducted by the movement show that 40 percent of its constituents voted in the past for the Alignment, 10 percent voted for the Likud, 25 percent are new voters, and only 25 percent are former Shinuy voters.

By changing the name and highlighting Shinuy's share, the movement hopes to attract new voters.

Poll Shows Shamir More Trusted Than Peres

TA1108102988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Aug 88 p 12

[Report by Andy Goldberg]

[Text] The public has more confidence in Yitzhaq Shamir than in Shim'on Peres, according to a Dahaf poll presented yesterday to Likud leaders. Half the respondents relied more on Shamir to lead the country to negotiations for peace, while only 42 per cent preferred Peres. 47 per cent favoured Shamir as the next Prime Minister while 43 per cent supported Peres. The poll gave Shamir higher remarks for reliability, trustworthiness, humility and responsibility, though a majority thought Peres had more personal charm.

Poll Gauges Ministers' Popularity in July

TA0908115488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Aug 88 p 3

[Text] There has been a 10-percent drop in the popularity of David Levi, the construction and housing minister, over the past month. Finance Minister Moshe Nisim's popularity also continues to decline. This is the conclusion of a nationwide public opinion poll conducted by the PORI [Public Opinion Research in Israel] Institute for HA'ARETZ.

Only 25.6 percent said they are satisfied with David Levi's performance as construction and housing minister, as opposed to 35.6 percent in June. (HA'ARETZ 27 July 88)

In the present poll, 41 percent said that they are satisfied with Moshe Nisim as finance minister, while in June the results were 45.2 percent and in April 54.2 percent.

The lowest rating went to Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon. Only 23 percent said they were pleased with the way he is performing his job. This is the lowest rating for an Inner Cabinet minister.

The number of people who said they were satisfied with Yitzhaq Rabin as defense minister is 50.2 percent, the highest rating for an Inner Cabinet member.

The number of people satisfied with Shim'on Peres' functioning as foreign minister is 38.2 percent. This figure is higher than that for Yitzhaq Shamir's performance as prime minister. (32.9 percent)

The poll included 1,200 men and women who were interviewed individually all around the country.

Polish Envoy: No Action Planned on Defection

TA1108132688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The Polish Government does not intend to submit any official request or intervene in any way in the affair of the Jewish dancer from Poland who defected to Israel. (Bronislaw Stawinski) of the Polish Interest Office in Tel Aviv told our correspondent Ya'el Almog: This is a private and human matter. As far as we are concerned he can do as he pleases. The Polish Government does not prevent its citizens from emigrating.

The Polish defector and his friends in Israel are awaiting the Interior and Foreign Ministries' decision on his case.

Tourist Company To Open Office in Beijing
TA1108120988 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Aug 88 p 16

[Report by Yisra'el Tomer]

[Excerpt] An Israeli tourist company, Trans Global Travel, has reached an agreement in principle with local PRC elements on opening a joint PRC-Israeli office in Beijing in order to promote tourism between the two countries.

The joint project will be carried out with private PRC elements which were allowed to develop business relations with foreign counterparts. The official procedures necessary for the establishment of such an office in the PRC capital are being looked into.

David Frank, the Trans Global Travel director general, says that the Chinese partner to the project will come to Israel before the end of this year. [passage omitted]

Talks With PLO Delegation on West Bank Measures

PLO Delegation Arrives

JN1108180888 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] A PLO delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member, and including Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and Fatah Central Committee member, and 'Abdallah al-Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, arrived in Amman this evening for talks with Jordanian officials on Jordanian-Palestinian relations against the background of recent Jordanian measures.

On hand to welcome the PLO team were Nabih al-Nimr, Foreign Ministry secretary general, and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member and its Amman representative, as well as Foreign Ministry officials.

Main Issues Noted

NC1108200588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1908 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Amman, 11 Aug (MENA)—A PLO delegation led by Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, and including PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, adviser Hani al-Hasan and Executive Committee member 'Abdallah al-Hurani, arrived in Amman tonight.

During its visit which will last several days, the delegation will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on Jordanian-Palestinian relations in light of Jordan's recent decision to sever legal and administrative links with the occupied West Bank.

A responsible Palestinian source told MENA that the Palestinian delegation's talks with Jordanian officials will deal with the reasons for the Jordanian decision and its consequences. The source added that the talks will also involve a number of administrative and financial issues, the most important of which are the issues of passports for Palestinians in the West Bank and the bridges on the River Jordan—and the Palestinian citizens' movement across them.

Another topic to be discussed is the issue of establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile in light of the higher interest of the Palestinian issue. The talks will also involve the future of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee. This committee was established 10 years ago and was in charge of giving assistance to the West Bank inhabitants and providing them with material and moral support.

The Palestinian delegation to the committee was led by martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and the Jordanian delegation was led by Marwan Dudin, minister of the occupied territories affairs. This ministry was cancelled in the Jordanian Cabinet reshuffle last week and Dudin was appointed labor minister.

The Palestinian source added that, so far, the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee has extended aid amounting to 155 million Jordanian dinars, around $460 million, including 102 million Jordanian dinars going as grants to the various sectors and activities in the occupied Arab territories and 53 million dinars going for production projects. The activities of this committee involved the agricultural, industrial, housing, and education sectors.

The committee also extended some assistance to the families of the popular uprising's martyrs and detainees in the occupied territories and helped Palestinian students studying outside the occupied territories whose financial support was cut off because of the situation in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian source added that the PLO delegation will also discuss with the Jordanian officials the possibility of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat visiting Jordan in the coming stage.

Monte Carlo on Talks

JN1208140788 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Talks began today between a Jordanian delegation led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and comprising Hani al-Khasawinah, information minister; Raja'i al-Dajani, interior minister; Fayiz al-Tarawinah, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Nabih al-Nimr, Foreign Ministry secretary general; and a Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, and comprising PLO Executive Committee members 'Abdallah al-Hurani, 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, Hani al-Hasan.

The talks, the first since King Husayn's announcement of the disengagement of the legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank, dealt with Jordanian-Palestinian relations in light of the recent Jordanian measures.

An informed source said the most important topic discussed was the situation of the employees in the occupied territories who were recently dismissed from service. The Jordanian officials affirmed that Amman welcomes any Arab support to enable the residents of the occupied territories to continue their steadfastness. They also said that the Jordanian monarch yesterday sent messages to the leaders of the five permanent Security Council members, Japan, the EC, and the Arab countries urging them to continue to support the residents of the occupied territories.

The issue of the Jordanian passports carried by West Bank Palestinians was also discussed. King Husayn had announced they would keep them until a Palestinian state is established.

An informed source also said that the fate of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee for the support of steadfastness in the occupied territories, which was not affected by the recent Jordanian measures, will be decided in light of the Arab contributions to the committee's fund.

It has been mentioned that the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee was set up in 1978 during the Baghdad summit through an Arabic contribution amounting to $150 million per year, but Saudi Arabia is the only country that meets its obligations and pays $28 million per year.

Paper Cites Husayn L'EXPRESS Interview

JN1208080488 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Paris, AFP—In an interview with the French weekly L'EXPRESS, His Majesty King Husayn has stated that the decision on the disengagement of legal and administrative links between the two banks has placed before Israel and the United States their responsibilities.

His majesty explained: We were facing a dead-end and with the approach of elections in Israel and the United States, these two countries were not ready to undertake any initiative. But now they must face their responsibilities.

His majesty added that the Israeli Government must now face reality and contribute to the sole solution that will safeguard security and stability in the region. In other words, the only way out is to recognize the Palestinians' right to their Palestinian territory.

His majesty said that the decision on this issue which was adopted in accordance with the wishes of the Algiers Arab summit is a Jordanian issue which deals with Jordanian sovereignty. No one had to know about it or discuss it.

Al-Khasawinah Reacts to Al-Qadhdhafi's Remarks

JN1108184288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Interview with Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah by Randa Habib in Amman on 11 August—recorded]

[Text] [Habib] Your Excellency, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi announced that he will pay the salaries of the West Bank civil servants whose employment was terminated. What is your comment on this?

[Al-Khasawinah] In fact, the civil servants working in the Jordanian Government's departments in the occupied West Bank, who were pensioned off or given a 1-month salary per year and were fully compensated, used to receive two salaries. One was from the Jordanian Government and another from the Israeli occupation authorities in accordance with these authorities' commitment to be responsible for the basic educational, health, and other services in the areas under their occupation, and in accordance with Jordanian arrangements.

Retirement, from the practical side and according to Jordanian laws, entitles the civil servant to receive about four-fifths of his salary. When His Majesty King Husayn announced the disengagement of legal and administrative links and made a political decision allowing the brothers in the PLO to deal unilaterally with all Palestinian affairs, Jordan sent messages to the Arab and friendly states asking them to continue to support the kinfolk and the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

We, first of all, welcome any brotherly Arab support for the kinfolk in the form of sums of money to civil servants and others. We welcome any decision to extend financial aid to civil servants and inhabitants of the occupied territories. However, we object to the context within which leader Al-Qadhdhadfi spoke.

[Habib] Your Excellency, Col al-Qadhdhafi claimed King Husayn has not offered anything to Jerusalem, West Bank, and Palestine. Is this your objection to Col al-Qadhdhafi's remarks yesterday?

[Al-Khasawinah] Yes, we object to this. Had it not been for Arab morals and rules of addressing Arab leaders, I would have used a word other than objection. There is no need to boast of what Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn, his father, grandfather, and great grandfather, Al-Husayn ibn 'Ali, leader of the Great Arab Revolt, offered to the Palestinian Arab people, and what His Majesty King Husayn offered during the two banks' unity, beginning with safeguarding the West Bank and Jerusalem from Israeli occupation. Also there are the heroic deeds of the Jordanian Army, which defended and protected Jerusalem, and the boom in the construction sector of the West Bank and the sacrifices and services offered following occupation in order to keep the kinfolk on their land and preserve the Arab identity on the Palestinian soil.

I hoped the years would teach leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi how to safeguard joint Arab action and maintain Arab virtues and methods of exchange among Arab leaders. If someone tries to bargain over His Majesty King Husayn and say what he offered and not offered for his pan-Arab causes, it suffices to state that his majesty is loved by his people and Armed Forces and trusted by his Arab nation. His stand toward the various pan-Arab causes account for his glorious record. We beseech God to give leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi the

wisdom of not opening wounds and of terminating such comments which the Arab nation has been fed up with and which do not serve the nation's causes.

Somalia's Hamud Speaks on Arab Issues, Ties

JN1008124088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Amman at noon today. He said he was carrying a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre. In a statement to PETRA-JNA correspondent, the Somali minister said that the message falls within the framework of consultations between the two leaders on the various Arab issues of common interest as well as ways to promote bilateral relations.

The guest minister also expressed happiness for being in Jordan as well as his heartfelt wishes that the Jordanian people will achieve more progress and prosperity under His Majesty King Husayn's wise leadership. He also expressed congratulations to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people on the anniversary of his majesty's accession to the throne. He was received at Alia International Airport by the secretary general, and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Delivers Message to King

JN0908181488 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn received at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs. Mr Hamud conveyed to his majesty a message from his brother Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre on ways to enhance bilateral relations and consultations on the various Arab current issues and the developments in the region. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit

JN1208114188 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Amman—Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, left this morning following a 3-day visit to Amman during which he conveyed a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother His Excellency Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre.

He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by Dr Fayiz al-Tarawinah, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and a number of officials.

King Husayn Receives UAE Air Force Commander

JN1008200388 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] His majesty the king, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces received today the UAE Air Force Commander Brigadier Shaykh Muhammad ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan. Attending the meeting were the Armed Forces Commander in Chief Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir; Chief of the General Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib; and the commander of the Royal Air Force.

This afternoon, the Armed Forces commander received at his office the visiting UAE Air Force commander. The commander of the Air Force attended the meeting.

Amman Papers Defend King's West Bank Decision

AL-DUSTUR on 'Daring Step'

JN1008095288 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Aug 88 p 7

[Article: "King Husayn's Decision Is the Political Channel for Everything That Will Take Place After Today" by Nasuh al-Majali, secretary general of the Ministry of Information]

[Text] Those who have followed events in our region and country since 1974 will realize that Jordan did not reach the decision to disengage the administrative and legal links between the two banks except after long political suffering during which Jordan endured a great deal and proposed several alternatives. This was done in the hope that the wall of unity on which we are leaning can bear the necessary repairs here and there provided it remains as the only guarantee for two people who are so strongly fused and intermixed that it is difficult to even contemplate the idea of splitting the one house and dividing the sons of one family.

Yes, we in Jordan have suffered, endured, debated, proposed bilateral formulas, and conceded dozens of times for the sake of national and pan-Arab harmony. We proposed the United Kingdom formula for two people who are equal in rights and duties. We also proposed bilateral coordination and made it dependent on what the Palestinian side wants and considers in the interest of the cause. We used the Jordanian state's available resources on the international level to uphold the legal status and on the local level to maintain the lifeline between the two people in order to strengthen Palestinian steadfastness in the occupied territory.

We curbed every tendency toward fanaticism and every voice that might be raised in defense of regionalism. King Husayn remained devoted to unity, common destiny, Jordan's historic responsibility, and the special status of the one people in the two banks. However, the voice of separation and secession began to rise and resound in our ears, demanding separation, lifting the

Jordanian hand off Palestinian affairs, and stopping Jordan's interference in the PLO's acquired rights. This secessionist tune reached its crescendo at the Algiers conference when Jordan was denied its historic role to back the occupied territory and even to simply transfer the Jordanian people's voluntary aid and assistance in support of the martyrs' families.

This introduction is not intended to justify what has happened, because our pains today have grown in size to cover the entire homeland. However, the step announced by King Husayn constitutes a daring political initiative that might place the Palestine question on a new crossroad that would afford the Palestinian people wider capabilities for political struggle and maneuverability and help the PLO move from the dreams of political absolutism to the dreams of political reality. It might also force the PLO to revise its previous political stands and develop new stands more acceptable internationally and more compatible with Palestinian reality and political reality imposed by the existing international political equations.

If the motive behind what happened during the past 9 months was the uprising, the Jordanian decision will, after today, be the political channel regarding Arab and Palestinian moves. The PLO will find itself, perhaps for the first time, face to face with new responsibilities. It will have direct responsibility before the world for the occupied territory and its people. Today, it is not responsible only for leading the Palestinian struggle, but also for running the affairs of a people under occupation. Any deterioration in the PLO's performance will necessarily be reflected on its image inside and outside [the occupied territory].

The decision itself has opened doors, removed doubts, and introduced the PLO as a major player in the international arena and the international conference. It has also defused the U.S. proposals which focused on excluding the Palestinian role to a point that made Jordan offer the Palestinians to share its role with them to enable the Palestinians to overcome this obstacle.

At any rate, the PLO can no longer be rejected on the pretext that there is a Jordanian option. This is because the Jordanian option, from the Israeli parties' viewpoint, leads to one conclusion. The Labor Party wants to return part of the occupied territory to Jordan to justify the return of the inhabitants of the occupied territory to Jordan as Jordanians and to get rid of the demographic problem. The Likud wishes to expel inhabitants of the occupied territory without giving them any part of this territory, especially since it considers them as a Jordanian community living on Eretz Yisra'el. In both cases, this means exportation of the demographic problem from which Israel is suffering to Jordan.

Closing the door of the Jordanian option puts Israel face to face with a fait accompli, namely that Jordan is one issue and Palestine is another. If it is necessary to sacrifice the historic unity between the two peoples at this stage to affirm the identity of the Palestinian people under occupation, then it is necessary to adopt this course that represents the most hateful permissible thing and the thing that is prohibited most in the pan-Arab action. In light of this, the PLO should fill the vacuum before Israel manages to fill it in a way that would help it liquidate the Palestine question. The issue depends on the PLO's and Israel's reactions to King Husayn's initiative.

If the issue is approved and blessed by Jordan, the PLO, and Arab consensus, then this step must be viewed as being a new course in a common pan-Arab strategy that is not aimed against the Palestinians, but at promoting their role and struggle and at checking all attempts to circumvent Palestinian representation. This course is also aimed at preventing any clash or contradiction between the Palestinian and Jordanian roles in liberating the land from occupation. This in itself would contribute to a new atmosphere between Jordan and the PLO, through which the existing balance of unity between the sons of the two peoples in the Jordanian arena, will be reinforced.

How will the PLO behave? This question is being put with great emphasis. Also, will the king's step be the motivator for the idea of a Palestininian government-in-exile—the government which is expected to push forward the peace offensive and its proposals and to rally support for the Palestinian people's question as the cause of a Palestinian people and a Palestinian state occupied by Israel?

In other words, King Husayn's step would bolster the Palestinian peace offensive just as it had crystallized the idea of the independent Palestinian state. The establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile and the declaration of peace principles that are acceptable internationally could deprive Israel of its arguments against the Palestinians, beginning with terrorism and ending with the PLO charter. Israel might in fact be placed in an unenviable position before world public opinion, especially if the mounting uprising is acccompanied by a mounting Palestinian peace offensive.

Jordan has been particularly sensitive and aware of the ideas that were being raised in the lobbies of the Likud. So it decided to close the door in the face of any Israeli attempt to mix the cards by massive Palestinian emigration to the East Bank under the allegation that they are Jordanian nationals. Every Jordanian official is haunted by this attempt, just as he is also haunted by the argument that Jordan is Palestine which is being publicized by the Zionists in the U.S. and international circles.

Time might yet show that King Husayn's daring step—despite its pains, sacrifices, and the abrupt end of a phase that has consumed the king's effort and lifetime struggle—is a cornerstone for many decisive changes in the

Palestine question. This step might also serve as a catalyst for coming events and political developments, and show that the Jordanian step was ahead of the changes expected in Israel and the United States after the general elections in both countries, and paved the way for a new perception of events that is different from previous political stands.

The main thing is not to consider the king's step as having simply settled the differences between the Jordanians and Palestinians on the question of representation, but also as having opened vistas for Palestinian, Arab, and international action which could be decisive in determining the future course of Palestinian struggle and the future relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people.

This step could also lead to some unexpected results and thus the fruit of national sacrifice would be the safety of the Palestinian and Jordanian homelands and the emergence of a new future with a new motivating force, and the great pain would produce the great hope—the hope of liberation and the preservation of the meanings of unity which we have created on this land.

'Strategic' Move Viewed

JN1108093688 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Aug 88 pp 1, 16

[Article: "Separation for the Sake of Approximation" by the political editor]

[Text] Jordan cannot possibly go back on or retreat from its decision, because this decision was not an emotional outburst, a reaction, or an attempt to make simple temporary political gains, play a card to get somewhere or overcome some crisis. The decision which the Jordanian leadership has adopted—following a thorough study of all aspects of the present situation and future anticipations—is precise and takes into consideration pan-Arab interests and the Palestinian people's primary and prominent role in the conflict with the Israeli enemy in order to attain their rights and establish their independent state.

Those who concentrated on or distorted the details and based them on their preconceived ideas founded on suspicions and incriminations, have neither understood the Jordanian measures nor viewed them objectively. They sometimes described them as secessionist and at other times as an attempt at separation that does not carry the meaning of and concern for approximation. These distorters, whether from the forward or rear ranks of this or that trench, are basing their stands on a concept that neither serves the Palestine question nor facilitates a just and honorable solution in the interest of its people and nation as a whole.

Jordan is not the type of country that pursues the policy of creating imponderables or throwing gauntlets and cogs in wheels. Furthermore, Jordan is not the kind of country that extorts, declares what it does not mean, or seeks evil aims. Jordan itself has suffered a great deal from the policy of suspicions, frustrations, and incriminations in all its stands concerning the Palestine question. Jordan wanted in all sincerity and clarity to extricate itself from ambushes and snares of those who have fished in troubled waters and indulged in such games ever since we began to hear slogans shouted by people who do not believe in them.

We do not want to enter into a campaign of misunderstanding even with those Arab brothers who have had the opportunity to understand our chosen position. The legal and administrative status, which they consider too much for Jordan, is being dismantled to stop the bleeding which has been going on for years so that it will not turn into puss harming the eternal historic and social relationship between the two fraternal peoples—a relationship which some people are trying to undermine for personal reasons or at the behest of others.

Jordan has waited too long to carry out its measures. These measures should have been carried out immediately after the Rabat summit and under the same formula for cultural and historical considerations and also out of pity for the Palestinian cause whose people are suffering from the hardships of displacement and the terrorism of the occupation authorities.

Jordan will not say what it does not mean. It will not have two tongues and two hearts. Jordan will not speak a language contrary to its pan-Arab stands and commitments or ignore the reality which has been dictated by history and pan-Arabism. Furthermore, Jordan will not enter into a useless argument on things which are already clear. For the sake of the cause, Jordan has been and will continue to be open-minded and tolerant. The crisis will subside as long as there are people who cherish amity and gratitude and appreciate participation and sacrifice.

The Jordanian measures and their meanings, particularly concerning passports, are not a new or fabricated issue nor are they a satanic idea. The idea of these meaures is over 10 years old and was revived to comply with an intrinsic, objective situation imposed by recent developments. Jordan saw, approved, and followed these developments.

Some quickly provoke Jordan to depict it as engaging in unstable conduct, hasty behavior, and precipitate measures and as being possessed by their illusions and twisted ideas. Jordan was eager to aim all its measures since the 1967 occupation at arranging its house in favor of the Palestine question so that it would not be stabbed in the back and so that the Palestinian people would remain steadfast in their land, adhering to both their national soil and Arab identity in the face of occupation that aims to render them homeless and deny them their legitimate rights.

We want the wrangling and argument to end and be replaced by trust, appreciation, care, and amity. Here comes our role which we played and the others' role which we anticipate. The measures, designed for separation, also aim at approximation and at expressing care, backing, and support. They also aim to enable the Palestinian brothers to play their full role.

What delights us and increases our belief is the fact that the Jordanian measures won Palestinian and Arab approval and were understood as part of the Jordanian conception that adheres to the pan-Arab line. No one can introduce us into a labyrinth he seeks to build and no one can desist us from our line and from our belief in our pan-Arab role. Moreover, the precipitate statements and misundestandings, just as the numerous previous ones, will only increase the firmness and loftiness of the Jordanian stand and will also consolidate Jordan's adherence to its consistent principles on which no one can bargain.

In conclusion, we have the right to ask: What is the aim of those who indulge in details and distort them through baseless claims which may not have sufficient reasons or visible motives? Rumors attempt to take advantage of minute details after the Jordanian orientation has been rectified. When everyone realizes that the Jordanian orientation was a strategic one, emanating from full and absolute convictions concerning the need to support the Palestinian people's struggle until they achieve their objectives, and that the Jordanian orientation is not a tactic, a reaction, a modification of a stand, or anything else, then all details included in this orientation can be explained and understood accordingly and not according to any misinterpretation or personal judgment not based on a clear, frank context.

Jordan has said and continues to say that it does not covet the Palestinian territory and people and that it supports the Palestinian people's right to choose their sole legitimate representative, which Jordan has blessed. Moreover, Jordan supports without reservations or hesitation the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state on their homeland's soil.

SAWT AL-SHA'B on 'Ill Will'

JN1108131688 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Aug 88 p 14

["Issue and Opinion" Column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Jordan's Greeting and the PLO's Reply to It"]

[Text] We had hoped that after Jordan's recent measures—the disengagement of the legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank and the complete withdrawal from representing the Palestinians, leaving the door wide open for the PLO to assume its responsibilities as sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—this new healthy atmosphere would be followed by further cooperation and coordination between Jordan and the PLO on the points of agreement and understanding and overcoming the points of disagreement if any, or at least shelving them at this stage. We had wished this especially since the objective circumstances of Palestinian national action have made it essential now more than ever before to patch up differences between the PLO and its Arab brothers, especially the states on the confrontation line with the Israeli enemy such as Syria and Jordan—both directly concerned with the military and political struggle and the peaceful settlements.

It has become the PLO's duty to rebuild bridges that have been destroyed or damaged and strengthen and reinforce existing bridges with these fraternal states, even as a matter of temporary tactics, if not as part of the strategy dictated by the requirements of the struggle with the enemy of the Arab nation.

The PLO is concerned more than others with ways to provide the glorious uprising in the occupied territories with the factors of steadfastness and continuity and creating healthy fraternal atmospheres with the confrontation states. We had hoped that the PLO would avoid anything that might harm these fraternal relations essential at this critical phase in the Palestinian national struggle.

The uprising has made great achievements. It called for the need to normalize fraternal relations between the PLO and Syria, and upheld the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinians. This made Jordan see the need to respond to the PLO's desire and Arab unanimity and interpret this response into a tangible reality in the service of the Palestinian national struggle and in the manner desired by the Palestinians in the occupied territory. This uprising requires the PLO and its leadership to respond to the it's appeals and calls and to ensure the necessary requirements for its support, continuity and growth.

Jordan responded quickly to the PLO's desire and the uprising's appeals and expressed readiness to give every assistance and support to the occupied territories through cooperation and coordination with the PLO in the manner it deems fit. Jordan does not deserve this ill will and these negative attitudes by Palestinian officials in statements, press interviews, and lectures.

After announcing the disengagement in the West Bank, Jordan has not asked to be included in a joint delegation with the PLO for negotiations with the enemy in an international conference or any other forum. It also has not imposed any negotiation formula on the PLO for the Palestinian leaders to come out and say that they would rather form a delegation with Egypt than Jordan. Why these unobjective statements which neither serve fraternal relations, the uprising and its steadfastness, or the Palestinian national struggle as a whole? Why concentrate now on points of disagreement and try to arouse sensitivities after Jordan has tried its best to avoid these things?

Is the international conference around the corner now that we should disagree on how to participate in it? And why do these provocative statements by PLO leaders come at a time when a Palestinian delegation is in Jordan to discuss future fraternal relations between the two sides and the means to back the uprising and look after the affairs of the Palestinians in the occupied territories?

The concern for backing the uprising and the steadfastness of the Palestinians in the occupied territories calls on everyone, especially the PLO and the Arab confrontation states at least, to stand in one trench against the enemy of the nation and to run the political and militant struggle successfully.

The Arab struggle against the enemy will not succeed when waged from different trenches. It will certainly not succeed if, God forbid, it is waged from conflicting trenches or even trenches holding different views.

Jordan has already announced its readiness to open its heart, mind, and bosom to listen to its PLO brothers. It is ready to come to an understanding in all matters they raise in the manner that pleases them and enables them to represent their people in the occupied territories. Will the PLO leaders return Jordan's greeting with a better if not a similar one at least?

Will the PLO leaders start strengthening and reinforcing existing bridges with Jordan and the other fraternal states instead of damaging and destroying them?

'False Interpretations'

JN1108091688 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
11 Aug 88 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Our Credibility Is Above Suspicion"]

[Text] Jordan has repeatedly asserted the pan-Arab cause of its recent measures. This is represented in a response to the wish of the PLO and the general Arab trend to consecrate the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Opening horizons for this soleness to take its administrative and legal dimensions in the West Bank is only satisfies this wish and trend.

Jordan has also repeatedly asserted that this response will never prevent it from continuing its pan-Arab role under the Arab umbrella and using all its resources in defense of the Palestinian cause and in support of the uprising of the steadfast people in the occupied territories. In light of this fact, Jordan feels a freedom of conscience, knowing that it did what the brothers wanted it to do without abandoning its pan-Arab responsibilities, and without making any room for suspicion of its commitment to the soleness of Palestinian representation by the PLO. It also did that without allowing anybody to harm the sacred national unity of the Jordanian people.

Jordan, therefore, is not concerned with any false interpretations. It is also not concerned to reply to untrue pronouncements because it believes that it can defend itself, and because it believes in tolerance, patience, and the ethics of the pan-Arab commitment.

It goes without saying that the Jordanian measures cannot be rescinded, as His Majesty King Husayn has stressed. This means that Jordan's credibility in its measures is above suspicion and doubt.

The Palestinian and Arab orientation, to which Jordan responded, has helped create a new reality that must be used to support the cause. The responsibilities arising from this new reality must also be born. The new stage does not allow for waiting or retreat. It requires maximum positivity and courage, something that Jordan has been asserting. Under all circumstances, Jordan will remain the shield of the Arab nation. It will never abandon its responsibilities within the common Arab action. The national unity on its soil will remain the source of its strength and gifts.

Syria Threatens 'Operation' To Free Hostages

JN1108153288 Kuwaiti AL-QABAS in Arabic 9 Aug 88 p 15

[Text] Beirut—AL-QABAS—A party leader close to Damascus has affirmed to AL-QABAS that Syrian officials, in a final warning to the Hizballah leaders in Lebanon, have said that if the foreign hostages held by Hizballah are not released within a specific time, an operation to set them free will be carried out regardless of the price.

He affirmed that the operation will be carried out anywhere the hostages are expected to be. He said this is a clear sign the Syrians may storm the Iranian Embassy in Beirut. Some quarters believe that some of the foreign hostages were moved to the Iranian Embassy during the battles between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the southern suburb last May.

These quarters have information, which they say is unconfirmed, on the transfer of approximately three hostages to the Sidon area, where the pro-Iranian fundamentalist Islamic groups have a wide influence in the city and its surroundings.

On the other hand, information received by AL-QABAS indicates that there are major differences within Hizballah that have begun to take serious form recently. There are various causes for these differences: while some differences are related to the party's structure and its mode of action, others are over how to deal with the Lebanese crisis, the issue of an Islamic republic in Lebanon, the shape of relations with Damascus and Tehran, and the issue of hostages.

The hostage issue has begun to cause trouble for some of the Hizballah leaders who believe this issue could be used for striking at the party, especially at this delicate stage which witnesses conflicting interests among certain quarters, and after the Iranian military retreat in the Gulf war.

Other Hizballah leaders used to wager on a positive development in Syrian-Iranian relations, which, however, tend to be cautious now following the war developments which may give a boost for the pro-Iraqi groups in Lebanon, something which arouses the pro-Syrian groups' concern. However, it is clear so far that relations between Damascus and Tehran are becoming more strained. On the other hand, the Gulf war developments do not affect Syrian influence in the Lebanese arena.

On the contrary, the diminishing Iranian role has begun to satisfy the Syrians. Hizballah officials complain the Syrians treat them and the party personnel with clear harshness, as if the next move will be to attack and liquidate this party. This will happen unless those calling for Lebanonizing the party succeed; this stirs up many differences inside the party leadership.

Report on Hostages' Location in West Beirut Cited

NC1108163588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1603 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM NEWS AGENCY says it has obtained a classified report that had been submitted to high-level officials in Lebanon, a copy of which had been delivered to an embassy of an influential Western state. The report deals with the location in West Beirut where foreign hostages are being held.

According to the report, the foreign hostages are being held in a 7-story building in Harat Hurayk. The Islamic Publishing House occupies one story of this building, which is approximately 100 meters away from the home of Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah.

The report adds that this building is located near the end of the Shaykh Raghib Harb Street, on the left side of the street. The hostages are being held on the first and second floors and are guarded by Qasim Hamiyah and two other members of his family. The guards use a separate entrance and a back stairway to reach the hostages. The hostages are allowed to leave their rooms and take short walks in an enclosed area on the first floor.

Libyan Envoy Brings Messages From Al-Qadhdhafi

Meets With Al-Jumayyil

NC1108161588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] At 1700 today, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil received 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, envoy of Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, accompanied by 'Ashur al-Furtas, head of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Beirut. The Libyan envoy conveyed to President al-Jumayyil a message from Al-Qadhdhafi.

Conveys Views on Lebanon

NC1108165688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Following his meeting with President Amin al-Jumayyil, Libyan envoy 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi said he conveyed a message to the president of the Republic from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi that deals with the Arab union plan to tackle the Arab issues as Al-Qadhdhafi had proposed at the Algiers summit conference.

Asked about Libya's view of developments in Lebanon on the eve of the constitutional deadline, the Libyan envoy said:

[Begin recording] Libya always looks at the Lebanese people as the only Arab people who have suffered much for the sake of the Arab nation and its cause. They have also suffered in their confrontation with the Zionist enemy and even from their internal conflicts. For all this, the colonel and the Libyan people hope that the Lebanese people's deputies will shoulder their responsibilities. We are confident that they

will do so and will reach a decision on the presidential issue which will fulfill the hope of all sectors and communities of the Lebanese people and will take into consideration Lebanon's Arab reality and commitments. This has always been Libya's view. It is what Libya hopes for after the presidential elections in Lebanon. [end recording]

Meets Al-Huss

NC1208114588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Libyan envoy 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi has handed Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss a message from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. Al-'Ubaydi has said that the message concerns a plan for Arab unity and for mobilizing all potential to confront the threats facing the Arab world. Al-'Ubaydi also said that he discussed with Al-Huss the situation in Lebanon. For his part, Al-Huss voiced the hope that recent developments would clear the air and restore solidarity in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Al-Jumayyil on Security During Elections

NC1108150588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has said that the most important achievement at the end of his term would be to ensure a normal, calm, and sound constitutional transition. This will constitute a victory for legitimacy, which has throughout the past years faced plots and challenges to undermine it, he added.

Speaking at the security meeting he chaired at the Defense Ministry today, President al-Jumayyil said that contacts are taking place between him and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and the prime minister to make security arrangements to protect the Chamber of Deputies and ensure that elections are held in a normal atmosphere.

President al-Jumayyil affirmed that Lebanese-Syrian-U.S. contacts showed that the elections will take place on time to elect a consensus president who can ensure the continuity of the state. The country, he said, can no longer bear new national upheavals.

The president renewed his wager on the Army as an institution that represents Lebanon's unity and is the basic pillar for the continuation of Lebanon's constitutional and national institutions. He stressed the need to abide by existing laws, the military pyramid system, and discipline, because any defect in the military establishment will mean ruin and destruction which will reflect negatively on the general situation in the country.

Lebanese Forces on Possible Franjiyah Candidacy

NC1108153188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Dr Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebanese Forces, returned to Beirut from his summer residence in Dayr al-Qattarah yesterday evening. It has been learned that the main reason behind his return is that the forces have confirmed reports that former President Sulayman Franjiyah intends to officially announce his candidacy for the Presidency within the next 72 hours.

Upon his return to Beirut, Dr Ja'ja' began successive and intensive meetings with all the political, information, security, and military organs in the Lebanese Forces. The final touches of an integrated plan to confront such a nomination on the various levels, including the difficult choices, have been completed.

It has also been learned that a state of general alert has been declared by the Lebanese Forces. Meetings at the highest levels are being held with influential political figures to oppose this nomination.

A source close to the Lebanese Forces commander has confirmed this report and disclosed that according to information available to the forces, Franjiyah is serious in saying that he will announce his candidacy within the next few days. Asked about Franjiyah's chances of becoming president, the source said there is absolutely no chance. Anyway, he added, Syria has rendered us a great service by adopting this nomination.

Resistance Fires Rockets at Israeli Settlement

NC1208060588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] According to reports from the South, Israel has carried out suspect moves in the occupied areas there during the past few hours. It has established new positions in the Bint Jubayl area and reinforced them with men and equipment, while continuing to shell most of the liberated areas.

It has been reported from Marj 'Uyun that an Israeli antimine vehicle was damaged when it hit a mine on Rshaf road. Israeli-Lahd militia forces searched the area and found two antivehicle mines and one antipersonnel mine and detonated them.

Two rockets have hit the Saff al-Hawa area on the outskirts of Bint Jubayl. A Lahd militiamen was killed in a resistance operation on the Al-Tayyibah combat line, and a resistance group has pounded the settlement of Qiryat Shemona with rockets.

Group Claims Attack on Syrian Position in Beirut

NC1208055188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] A rocket was fired last night at a Syrian occupation forces' position near the municipal playground in West Beirut. A group calling itself the Beirut Martyrs Battalion claimed responsibility for the operation and said two Syrians were wounded.

U.S. Role in Mideast Peace Process Examined

Commitment Questioned

JN0908112588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Aug

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "America Only Carries Deception," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The United States has found it impossible to drag the Arab nation to the positions prepared by the U.S. diplomacy to impose Zionist objectives and entrench occupation. The United States has realized that all its plans to drag the Arabs to these positions have failed despite the disruption and confusion in the Arab situation since the Iraqi regime acted on behalf of America and ignited the crazy war in the Gulf.

However, Washington has not admitted the defeat of its plans and began new methods imposed by new circumstances that coincided with the uprising in the occupied homeland and with the escalation of this uprising. The Shultz plan has come to play the role of decoy through which the United States believed it would take advantage of the Arab situation and consequently quell the occupied homeland's uprising. We are used to the fact that the United States does not move unless its ally, Israel, is at an impasse.

When the world rose against the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, Reagan's plan came to absorb world indignation against Israel and to show the Arabs as enemies of peace. In fact, Reagan himself was not with his plan because he supported the Zionist settlement movement and because he promised to take over the cost of any American Jew's travel and immigration to the Zionist entity.

The uprising has now placed Israel in a true impasse, for the world condemns the Zionists and their terrorism. Moreover, the world has not only isolated Israel, but also its ally, America. This is confirmed at least by the West European stand. The Israeli impasse is not only a political one, but also an economic, social, and a military one. In light of this, the United States has intensified its moves, not for the sake of peace, but for the sake of saving its Zionist allies.

Had George Shultz been convinced of the need for peace in the Middle East, he would have realized that the pillars of a just and lasting peace have been proposed by the world and the Arabs through their support for an effective and binding international conference for peace. However, Shultz, just as his master Reagan, is not convinced of his plan, for when the Zionist government opposed this plan, the United States rewarded it with new pledges to supply it with new arms and with agreements that would make Israel exactly the same as a U.S. state.

Thus, how can Shultz be for peace when he awards Shamir and his government further military and material aid despite the fact that Shamir and his government reject Shultz' plans? This clear U.S. commitment to Zionist convictions causes the Arabs to lose confidence in all the U.S. Administration's deceptive plans which it calls peace plans or initiatives for the sake of peace, beginning with the Rogers' plan and Kissinger's deception, and ending with the Shultz' plan and the Reagan plan before it.

U.S. Solution Called 'Mirage'

JN0908162888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Once again, the United States reiterates its support for the Israeli occupation and for all the Zionist terrorist measures in the occupied Arab territories. When Murphy says that his country supports what he terms as measures to restore order to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, this constitutes new evidence that all statements by the U.S. Administration on the contribution to the attainment of a comprehensive solution to the conflict in the region are just an attempt to peddle dreams.

It is clear that all the U.S. moves with the other Camp David parties aim to quell the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories—not search for a solution to serve the Palestinian cause.

The U.S. concept on the restoration of order in the occupied territories is the same as that of the Israeli concept which calls for tightening the occupation's grip on the uprising, stifling it, and foiling its political and militant goals of liberation and the termination of Israeli occupation.

In light of this, any political move by those who pant after and wager on the mirage of a U.S. solution which ignores the nature and objectives of the U.S. and Zionist schemes will be part of the conspiracy to liquidate the Palestinian cause, terminate the uprising, and extricate the Zionist enemy from the dark tunnel in which the uprising has placed it, and to spread Camp David to the Palestinian arena.

The enemy leaders only put forth a formal autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Washington only speaks about incremental settlements and a limited autonomy. The Zionist enemy and Washington remain committed to the Camp David accords and consider them as the basis for a settlement. They refuse to abide by the implementation of international resolutions.

For this reason too, they refuse to hold an international conference with broad prerogatives under the UN auspices because the implementation of the international resolutions means the end of the Israeli occupation of the

occupied Arab territories. It also means recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights and the adoption of deterrent measures that will bridle the Zionist entity's policy of aggression and expansion.

The basic objective of the move the Camp David parties and those who are riding on their bandwagon are undertaking is to contain the uprising and quell it, and block the road to international efforts to hold an effective international conference for the implementation of the UN resolutions. Peace is completely different from capitulation. Any move that does not proceed from an abidance to the Arab struggle for the liberation of the land and the regaining of the national and inalienable rights serves the course of capitulation to the Zionist enemy.

Syria, through President Hafiz al-Asad, has warned the defeatists and those who are panting after the illusory U.S.-Zionist solution about being blindly ensnared by the policy of defeatism and capitulation. They will only be serving the Zionist and U.S. schemes at the expense of the pan-Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian cause. National and pan-Arab causes suffer no options. The only option is that of defending rights and rejecting bargaining. Anything else is a fall into the morass of treason.

U.S. 'Passivity' Viewed

JN1108074388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Statements are being made by U.S. officials on current issues pertaining to the Middle East region. These statements do not provide details regarding certain issues, including the situation in the Gulf, the Lebanese presidential elections, and Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank.

We are also reading in the Arab news media statements by Arab officials, article, and analyses which display a sort of acceptance of the U.S. interference in the details of these issues. Consequently, the United States is being allowed to play a role at the expense of the natural role expected to be played by the parties concerned and is also given a right that is not based on an iota of legitimacy to interfere in the internal affairs of Arab states and also in inter-Arab relations.

Nobody argues about the importance of the United States, considering that it is one of the two superpowers in today's world; a permanent member of the UN Security Council; the country with economic, diplomatic, and military extensions in the Middle East; the international party that provides Israel with funds, weapons, material, and moral support; and that covers up for its wars, its expansionist invasions, and its policy which is hostile to the national liberation movements in the Middle East. Nobody argues about the importance of the United States.

However, we should not forget that this importance has not stemmed from a positive role that it has so far played in the region. Nay, it emanated from the negative nature of this role toward the legitimate rights of the region's peoples and also toward the requirements for establishing a just and durable peace. This passivity is the thing which negatively affected the standing of the United States in the region and rendered it most often diametrically opposed to the Arab masses in particular and to the national liberation movements in the region, a manifestation of which occurred in Iran following the birth of the revolution which toppled the Shah regime, in general.

The people of this region cannot forget the U.S. history in the region since the end of World War II. The most important events of this history are conspiracy against the nationalist Mossadeq regime in Iran, the attempt to tie the region through alliances, providing protection to the racist Zionist entity established in Palestine, nourishing it to feed the role of the imperialist base and spearhead against the national liberation movement, arranging the conclusion of the Camp David accords which are hostile to the Arabs' interests, and the United States' approval of Israel's Lebanon invasion after it had contributed to the sedition there to cover up for the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arabs.

This history is well-known and it placed the United States in one trench while the region's peoples are standing in the other. People do not forget. However, they are not fossilized in their thinking and their follow-up of world events.

World imperialism has failed to defeat socialism by force, to address the Soviet Union from a position of strength, and to continue its pursuit of the policy of confrontation and collision. Now that this imperialism has demonstrated a policy of detente instead of that of collision, people believe that this development is bound to reflect on the international policy in general and the U.S. policy in various regions of the world, including the Middle East.

There can be no international detente or bases for resolving regional conflicts on the basis of the old U.S. policy that seeks to deal single-handedly and separately with people and their national liberation movements. Likewise, the Soviet Union and the people concerned cannot condone the United States' free hand in this or that region, and especially in the Middle East. The United States knows this and is working hard to collect the greatest possible number of cards in this or that region to prepare for resolving regional conflicts.

It is forced to introduce changes to its stands and policies as long as it remains committed a policy of detente. It cannot, during the detente era, achieve what it aspired to achieve and failed to realize during the era of collision and confrontation.

Inasmuch as the United States detaches itself from its previous stands which are hostile to people, it will bring itself closer to a role that is acceptable to the people whose struggle, steadfastness, and sacrifices are making history, forging geography, and creating destinies in their region.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Islamic Consultative Council

LD1108212888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Speech by President Najibullah to the third session of the Islamic Consultative Council held at Delkosha Palace in Kabul on 11 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed ulema and members of the high Islamic Consultative Council: We convene today's session at a time when the world's Muslims have celebrated the auspicious days of 'Id al-Adha, and a number of our compatriots have been blessed with visiting the house of God. [passage omitted]

The Geneva accords are one of the formidable gains of this policy which we are implementing. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is conscientiously observing and implementing the letter and spirit of these accords. The Soviet Government has also taken practical action on returning its limited units home in accordance with the specified timetable. Indeed 50 percent of these units are due to return to their country by 15 August. Now, in 25 provinces in the country, there are no limited units of the Soviet Union.

As we are Muslim, and in accordance with the holy verse, O believers, we observe your undertakings, we are being faithful to the promise we made and the treaty we signed. We also take seriously the importance of adhering to our Afghan culture. Unfortunately, the Pakistani side not only does not follow its commitments, but obstructs our implementation and observance of the Geneva accords. The world's Muslim and the international public should judge the Government of Pakistan's reply, as a Muslim country and UN member, vis-a-vis God's order and international law.

Unfortunately, we were all witnesses to the anti-Islamic and inhuman deeds by elements associated with the extremist groups during the holy days of 'Id al-Adha. On such holy days our compatriots, who follow Islamic traditions, were sincerely embarrassed when the enemies of reconciliation fired on Kabul and other provinces with rockets and other heavy weapons, killing a large number of our innocent compatriots. This was in response to our peace-seeking invitation and against our compatriots who are thirsty for peace.

With the purest of intentions, we issued a statement on ending the war and bloodshed and securing an Islamic understanding among Afghans. We opened our arms to them in the spirit of reconciliation and opened the gates to their homes so that they could take part in a happy 'Id al-Adha. These things were done in line with our people's religious faith and their peaceful aspirations, in complete accordance with the will of God and His righteous prophet, Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him. Our actions were based on a perception of our great responsibility to God's people and a proposal made by the Islamic Consultative Council.

So what have they done in return? Is this an example of claiming to be a Muslim and following the Afghan way of life? Please think about who is the target of their provocations and conspiracies.

How do their weapons and missiles get into the country? The answer is clear to our compatriots and international public opinion. They come via the territory of a state claiming to be Muslim which is obligated to carry out the will of God and observe the UN Charter.

We believe if our country's enemies and their agents reply to our call for peace by firing missiles, their actions will backfire. As we promised, we will carry out our duty to end the war and fratricide. We are confident that Almighty God will help us because we have embarked on a worthy and desirable task.

Esteemed ulema and clergy, we attach enormous value to your consultations and once again I need your help. As the Prophet Muhammad says: An adviser must be trustworthy in order to seek ways and means to restore peace and prosperity to the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

At our session we see the empty chairs of a number of our ulema and clergy who are far away from the homeland and wandering in an alien land.

When we set up the organizational chart for the Islamic Consultative Council, a number of seats were kept for our compatriots who are now refugees. We appreciate your action. We hope they will recognize their responsibility, return to the loving bosom of the homeland, and help the Afghan Government by giving useful consultations to serve the sacred religion of Islam and God's people.

Esteemed ulema and members of the high Islamic Consultative Council, you elected your chairman and administrative delegation at the previous session. The council's list of duties is ready for approval after debate, discussions, and the necessary amendments. During the period between the two sessions many proposals and views were advanced which are now under study. The necessary decisions will then be made.

The ulema and scholars have expressed enormous interest in convening a broad international Islamic gathering in Afghanistan. They have asked that this gathering be convened in our country in the best way possible so that our solidarity and Islamic fraternity with the world's Muslims is consolidated, enjoying a high level of esteem and Islamic and international importance. In order to accomplish this task, instructions have been given to the respective officials. To realize this, more determination

and work will be needed from every official in charge of taking the necessary measures for convening this gathering and taking the necessary actions on time.

I ask Almighty God to make you and all the Afghan people successful on the path of securing the prosperity of the society and country, ending the war and fratricide, and achieving salvation before God. Success comes from God. Thank you.

Najibullah Addresses Newly-Formed Tribal Council

LD1208082488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 11, BAKHTAR—The first session of the Council of Nationalities and Tribes of the Presidency of the Republic of Afghanistan was held here today.

The president of the Republic of Afghanistan, Najibullah in his speech addressed at the session said that the formation of the Council of Nationalities and Tribes of the Presidency was approved by the creditable representatives of the Afghan people in the historic loya jirgah (Grand Assembly) of late November in 1987.

In the council, Najibullah went on to say, eminent chieftains and social figures are included. They are duty bound to apply their power and energy for the cessation of war and ensurance of a nation-wide peace in the country.

Later, Haji Muhammad Samkani, chairman of the council introduced members of the council to the president of Afghanistan.

Samkani, on behalf of the members of the council pledged that the council will do its best for the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation in the country which is supported by the nationalities, ethnic groups and tribes of Afghanistan.

Clashes Continue Between Armed Forces, Mujahidin

Battle for Konduz 'Raging'

BK1208115188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1131 GMT 12 Aug 88

[By Bertrand de Saisset]

[Text] Termez, Soviet Union, Aug 12 (AFP)—As the first of 1,000 Soviet troops arrived here Friday from the north Afghan town of Konduz, a reliable source said fighting was raging in the streets there and Afghan Army forces had lost control of all but the airport.

The source also said that Soviet troops withdrawing from Kabul had stopped to help Afghan forces battling rebels in the strategic northern town, but a Soviet military source denied this.

The detour had earlier been reported by the same source who detailed the ongoing struggle for control.

Konduz, located between Kabul and the Soviet border and about 100 miles (160 kilometers) southeast of here, is the most important town the mujahidin have captured without losing it again to government troops immediately afterwards, the source said.

"The last Soviet soldier left Konduz August 5," Finnish General Rauli Helminen, chief of the United Nations team observing the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, told journalists here.

Rebels entered Konduz immediately after the Soviets withdrew, according to a Radio Kabul report Wednesday. Since then, fighting has continued, with a counter-attack by the Afghan Army on Thursday.

Now, fighting was raging in the streets and the Afghan Army retained control of the airport only, according to a reliable source here.

Many Soviet observers said they were amazed at the scale of the rebel operation.

A convoy carrying the first units of 1,000 Soviet troops withdrawn from Konduz arrived in Termez early Friday.

Sixty-five armoured vehicles, including tanks, trucks and artillery, crossed the metal bridge straddling the Amudar'ya River as journalists and four U.N. observers looked on. A U.N. flag hoisted for the occasion billowed in the wind.

Remaining units were due to cross the border later in the day, said General Lev Serebrov, one of the top generals of the Soviet contingent in Afghanistan.

Reporters were flown into Mazar-e Sharif, a northern Afghan town near the Soviet border, Thursday night aboard an Afghan Army Antonov-32 plane. The situation there appeared calm, despite the presence of tanks at the entrance to the town.

About 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the border was the start of a zone peppered with barbed wire and observation posts. Hundreds of trucks and tanks were parked and a radar station could be seen.

At Termez, welcoming ceremonies had been organized for the returning troops. Elderly women dressed in World War II uniforms, chests covered with medals, sang songs in praise of the Soviet soldiers.

In the town square a banner was unfurled reading "Soviet Union, Bulwark of Peace and Friendship in the World" and a huge portrait of Lenin had been erected, along with pictures of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other Communist Party leaders.

Gen. Helminen said more than 50,000 Soviet soldiers are to pull out of Afghanistan by Monday, 10,000 of them from the northern provinces.

He declined to give details of the withdrawal schedule between August 15 and February 15, the date by which all Soviet troops are due to be out of the country under terms of the Geneva accord signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan in April. However, he said U.N. positions would be set up soon at Quetta and Peshawar, in Pakistan near the Afghan border.

Kabul Hit by Rockets 10 Aug

LD1108150688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Criminal extremists yesterday shelled residential areas of the city of Kabul with heavy weapons, killing and wounding a number of our citizens. Residential areas of the 10th Ward were hit by 6 rockets at 1300, with 3 rockets hitting the Charqala-e Wazirabad area and the houses of 'Ali Reza and Muhammad Wali. One woman was martyred and 4 other persons wounded.

At 2300 these criminals fired 4 rockets at residential areas in the 3d, 5th and 6th Wards of the city. One hit the house of 'Abdul Basir, close to Jamhuryat bridge in the 6th Ward, wounding 3 people. The wounded were transferred to a hospital.

Attack on Jalalabad 'Foiled'

LD1108173788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The BIA military section reports that the security forces yesterday prevented an incident from taking place in Jalalabad city.

Criminal extremists placed several magnetic mines in a vehicle in order to wreak havoc in a crowded area of Jalalabad city. This extremist action was discovered and foiled by the security forces with the aid of the citizens of Jalalabad city.

In another report from Nangarhar Province, eight rocket projectiles, which were ready to be fired on Jalalabad by members of the Khalis band in (Dasht-e Ghazi) region, Sorkh Rud District, were seized by the security forces with the help of local inhabitants.

Armed 'Extremists' Killed

LD1108190888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The country's Armed Forces recently crushed a number of armed extremists who were engaged in war and sabotage in Khowst major district. As a result of this action, 13 criminal armed extremists were killed and 3 others were wounded. Also, during the action one mortar and one rocket launcher, together with its missiles, belonging to the extremists were destroyed.

Another group of armed extremists was crushed by the security forces in Samangan Province. As a result, a leader of the extremist group—'Ali, son of Muhammad Qol—was killed. Two of the group members were wounded and nine others were captured, together with a quantity of arms and ammunition.

26 Rebels 'Crushed' in Takhar

LD1108174088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports from Talegan, the capital of Takhar Province, that 26 extremists have been crushed by security forces. The extremists had been disrupting the peaceful lives of residents of Baghak and Qara (Parchaw) for some time now.

The correspondent adds that a number of light and heavy weapons and an arms and ammunition depot belonging to the extremists were completely destroyed.

Operations in Lowgar, Qandahar

LD1108191988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Security forces are continuing their mopping up operations with the help of residents in the (Larkhab Dara) area of Lowgar Province. Zekria, who led an armed group belonging to the Gulbuddin band, and 70 members of his group were killed. Dozens of light and heavy enemy weapons were destroyed.

According to another report, security forces recently crushed an extremist group trying to disturb the peace in Mohammad Agha District, Lowgar Province. A leader of Gulbuddin's band, two Pakistani advisers, and seven members of the group were eliminated.

A group of armed extremists was killed while trying to shell the residential areas of Qandahar Province with mortar shells. The shells exploded on firing killing Mullah 'Abdul Wali, a leader of the group, and six other criminals.

Rebels Shoot Down Aircraft

BK1108154388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have attacked Kabul troops and the fuel supply convoys on the northern highway passing through the Salang Tunnel in Baghlan Province, destroying 20 oil-carrying vehicles and about 100 tons of oil. Several Kabul troops were killed or wounded in this attack.

The mujahidin also attacked several military posts at Shakar Darreh, Kalakan, (Mirwadak Kot), and (Tera Bagh) near Kabul Province and killed 12 Kabul soldiers and captured 5 military posts. In another operation in Lowgar Province, the mujahidin shot down an aircraft near (Achakan).

Soviet Units Seen off From Shindand Garrison

LD1108225888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] BIA reports that a ceremony was held yesterday in Shindand garrison on the occasion of the withdrawal of the limited Soviet units who have left Helmand and Qandahar Provinces for the Soviet Union after fulfilling their international duties. Attending were high-ranking officials from the Herat leadership delegation, men and officers of the Herat forces, a delegation from the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, 67 foreign journalists, and citizens of the city of Herat.

A message from Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, on the occasion of the return of the Soviet limited units, was read by Mr Fazl Haq Ulumi, the governor of Herat. The governor then spoke about the traditionally good relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, and expressed his appreciation to Soviet military personnel for earnestly fulfilling their duties.

The commander of the returning units then expressed his thanks the profound sentiments expressed and wished the people of Afghanistan peace and prosperity.

The political head of the Soviet military units said that the Soviet side will earnestly implement its commitments to the Geneva accords.

According to another report by BIA's military section, units of the Soviet limited continents were warmly welcomed yesterday afternoon in Towraghondi port by citizens of Herat city and inhabitants of Towraghondi. They wished them a safe journey.

According to another report, foreign journalists who came to Afghanistan to see the realization of the Geneva accords and to prepare reports have visited the city of Herat nd other regions of Herat Province.

Trade Protocols Signed With USSR 10 Aug

LD1108202288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Documents for utilizing 50 million rubles worth of credit from the Soviet Union for the development and growth of commercial activities in the Republic of Afghanistan were signed in the Commerce Ministry yesterday.

The documents were signed on the Afghan side by Commerce Minister Muhammad Khan Jalalar, and on the Soviet side by (Kuparvich), representative of the Soviet Trade Mission in Kabul. The signing ceremony was attended by Afghan Deputy Prime Minister Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin.

Also, a protocol on constructing private sector transport under the name of Wahdat, with a capital investment of 13.8 million rubles, was signed yesterday on the Afghan side by Muhammad Hakim, general director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and on the Soviet side by (Kuparvich), representative of the Soviet Trade Mission in Kabul.

A protocol on the construction of 11 industrial projects in the confectionary, bakery, and biscuit industry was signed yesterday on the Afghan side by Muhammad Hakim, general director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and on the Soviet side by [name indistinct], deputy head of the Soviet Trade Mission in Kabul.

Bangladesh

OBSERVER Details Ershad's Cabinet Reshuffle

BK1108162588 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on Saturday appointed Dr Wahidul Haque, an eminent economist as a Minister, reports BSS. Dr Haque was a Professor of Mathematics and Economics in the University of Toronto, Canada.

The president administered the oath of office to the newly appointed Minister at a simple ceremony held at the President's Secretariat in Dhaka on Saturday evening.

The president has allocated the portfolio of the Ministry of Finance to Dr Haque.

Meanwhile, the president has reallocated some of the portfolios of the ministers.

Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hussain has been given the portfolio of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower. Mr M.A. Munim has been made the Minister for Health and Family Planning. Mr Sirajul Hussain Khan has been made the Minister for Fisheries and Livestock. Mr Korban Ali has been made the Minister for Shipping and Mr A.K.M. Mayeedul Islam has been made the Minister for Jute.

Sheikh Hasina on Minorities' Migration to India

BK1108014388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The opposition Awami League president, Mrs Sheikh Hasina Wajed, has said that minorities in Bangladesh were crossing over to India out of insecurity following the declaration of Islam as the national religion. Talking to reporters today during a brief stopover at Calcutta on her way to Dhaka, Mrs Wajed said the non-Muslims were crossing over mainly from Bashirhut, Faridpur, Khulna and Jessore Districts.

Meanwhile, hundreds of left-wing students took to the streets of Dhaka today calling for a repeal of a Bangladesh Government decree which made Islamic education compulsory in schools. The demonstration was preceded by a rally at Dhaka University attended by an estimated 10,000 students.

India

Colombo Reports Suspension of LTTE Talks

BK1208115888 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] India has suspended talks with the LTTE. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, K. Natwar Singh, in New Delhi yesterday. The minister told the Indian Parliament that informal talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been suspended because they proved inconclusive due to the group's continuing recalcitrance. He did not say when the talks were broken off. He said that informal contacts have been made in the last few months with the LTTE, which has an office in Madras.

Press reports have said Indian intelligence officials have been discussing with LTTE leaders in Madras on the possibility of ending the fighting. Mr Natwar Singh said any withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka at this stage was not desirable.

Sri Lankan Minister Says IPKF Should Stay

BK1008044288 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government wants the Peacekeeping Force to stay on in Sri Lanka till total peace is restored. Talking to newsmen at Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu today, the Sri Lankan minister for rural industry, Mr S. Thondaman, said his country has discharged the obligations required by the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. He said in the Tamil-speaking areas in North and Eastern Provinces of the island, trade and commercial activities have started. Communications and transport links have also been restored. Our correspondent, (Arunam), reports from Jaffna that attendance in schools and colleges is normal. Students are taking their examinations these days.

Karnataka Chief Minister Resigns 11 Aug

BK1108125988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The Karnataka chief minister, Mr Rama Krishna Hegde, submitted his resignation to the state governor, Mr P. Venkatasubbaiah, at Bangalore this afternoon. Accepting the resignation, the governor asked Mr Hegde to continue in office till alternative arrangements are made.

Mr Hegde's resignation followed the telephone tapping episode in the state for which he accepted moral responsibility.

Our Bangalore correspondent reports that Mr Hegde held the office of the chief minister of Karnataka for 5 and ½ years.

The state Janata legislature party is meeting in Bangalore tomorrow morning to elect a new leader.

'Armed Miscreants' Kill 11 People in Bihar

BK1208130088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] In Bihar, 11 persons were shot dead when armed miscreants attacked two villages in Jahanabad District last night. Five were killed at the (Damuha) village and six at (Khadritola) village. Senior police officers have rushed to the spot and the situation is now reported to be under control.

Lok Sabha Bill on Misuse of Religious Places

BK1208031988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] The Lok Sabha has passed a bill to prevent the misuse of religious institutions. The bill replaces a recent ordinance. Under the bill the use of any premises belonging to a religious institution is prohibited for promotion or propagation of political activity. Storing of arms and ammunition is banned. Any activity which may cause enmity or hatred between various groups and prejudices the sovereignty and integrity of the country is also prohibited.

The punishment prescribed under the new law includes a jail term of up to 5 years and a fine of up to 10,000 rupees.

Replying to the 2-day discussion, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, said that the bill is not against any religion. He said it aims at preventing misuse of religious places in the light of recent experiences. He assured the House that the bill will not be misused and said the government will soon come forward with a comprehensive legislation covering various aspects of separating religion from politics.

Earlier, during the resumed discussion members belonging to the Congress-I and most of the opposition parties welcomed the measure and stressed on needs for separating religion from politics.

Iran

UK Envoy Arrives for Talks on 'Mutual Relations'

LD1208074088 Tehran IRNA in English 0738 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA—A British diplomat, David Reddaway arrived here early this morning.

An informed source at the Foreign Ministry told IRNA that during his short stay here, Reddaway will hold talks with Iranian officials on mutual relations.

When the news of the British diplomat's visit to Tehran was disclosed this week, the Foreign Office said it would help "assess Iranian attitudes to all aspects of U.K.-Iranian relations."

His stay here is expected not to last more than two or three weeks, according to the Foreign Office.

Reddaway is the first British diplomat to visit the Islamic Republic since last August when relations between the two countries strained over the unlawful arrest of an Iranian diplomat in Manchester which sparked tit-for-tat actions by the two sides.

The climate of relations worsened following the London government's support for Washington's naval presence in the Persian Gulf.

Reddaway has served in Iran from 1977 to 1980, speaks fluent Farsi (Persian) and has an Iranian-born wife.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1208120288 Tehran IRNA in English 1151 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i, assessing the nearly 8 years of an unequal war between Iran and the "whole arrogant and reactionary world," praised the martyrs, disabled, POWS and those missing in action as valuable assets of Islamic Republic.

Khamene'i pointed out that all the East, West and Arab reaction, despite their heavy investments, suffered severe set-backs after 95 months of a sacred defence of Iran. This defeat he said was a great lesson for the oppressed world and all freedom strugglers around the globe.

The president also reiterated that Iran must preserve its defensive position. "Even after the war, defense will continue and members of the armed forces and volunteers must be present to defend Iran's territorial integrity alongside with the country's reconstruction."

Addressing a multitudinous group of worshippers at Tehran University campus and adjacent streets, Khamene'i said that Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Resolution 598 not only was in the interest of the Islamic Revolution but also belied the Baghdad regime's calls for peace.

The president, commenting on Iraq's reaction to Iran's acceptance of the Security Council Resolution 598, said such an unexpected move by the Islamic Republic had completely stunned the Baghdad regime so that it was left with no option but to accept it in a bid to hide its war-mongering nature before the world.

The Friday congregational prayer leader described Baghdad's rejection of ceasefire and instead raising five preconditions to accept peace, as the most unwise move which badly damaged the remaining prestige of Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn.

However, Khamene'i said, the Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq was later forced to drop its preconditions and accept ceasefire under pressure of world public opinion.

This victory for Iran he said resulted from the massive presence of Iranian volunteer forces in the battlefields and successful political efforts made by the Foreign Ministry which by sticking to its decisive views and taking calculated moves made Baghdad's political setback possible, he said.

On Iran's 95-month-old sacred defence, Khamene'i said the Iranian people witnessed great victories gained by their dedicated combatants due to their self-sacrificing acts and martyrdom-seeking spirit.

The nearly 8-year-old Iraqi-imposed war was filled with such acts of sacrifice and temporary victories and defeats each of which was a lesson, he said.

Over the past eight years, Khamene'i said, all arrogant powers from the East and West and the reactionary world joined hands and hatched plots with all their might against the Islamic Revolution.

These big and small powers first instigated Iraqi ruler Saddam (Husayn) whom he described as a mentally-disturbed person to attack Iran and then helped him to save himself when trapped, Khamene'i said.

The world's political facilities and war machines were put at the disposal of Saddam so much so that even they (arrogant powers) were ready to provide Iraq with nuclear power but they did not do it because they knew it would be a serious threat against global security.

A large amount of miliary equipment including warplanes, artillery pieces, armoured hardware and even long range surface-to-surface missiles able to hit Tehran was given to Iraq, financed by the Arab rection and the global arrogance which also allowed Baghdad to reschedule its foreign debts.

The president said when the war started (in 1980) Iran did not enjoy its present military power. But today, he said, the Army, the Sepah (Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps) and popular forces are stronger than ever because of their experience in the eight-year old Iraqi imposed war.

"Today, Iran is an important stronghold for defense which obviates the vain hope of any military attack on the country," he said. He also described Islamic Iran as "a military-political power" in the world "and we owe this to the people's determination." The president was also very proud of the people's "strong support" for the ruling system.

He said one "admonitory aspect" of the war with Iraq was that it exposed the Iranian revolution's "innocence" to the entire world. He said oppressive powers tried to inflict some blows on the revolution in one way or the other and as examples he referred to last year's massacre of hajj pilgrims by the Saudi regime as well as the U.S. Navy attack on an Iranian passenger plane last month which killed all 290 people aboard.

"History does not remember such an innocent nation (Iran) being subjected to so much hostilities but resisting all these hardships," he boasted.

Addressing world's revolutionary movements, the president said the (Iraq-Iran) war and the revolution proved that one can live without dependence on others and defend his country's honor and prestige.

Elsewhere in his remarks he ridiculed Iraq for its "victory" ' celebrations after ceasefire declaration and said "they had come here to exterminate a people (Iran) within days or weeks, but were defeated and are now celebrating their defeat."

He said real victory belonged to Iran and "we owe this to the blood of our martyrs." He said the blood of even a single martyr had not been wasted because he noted, this blood helped establish the Islamic Republic of Iran's prestige.

"Relatives of martyrs, POWS, those missing in action and the crippled should be proud that the martyrdom and struggle of their children and loved ones caused honor for the nation and blessing for the Islamic society," he assured.

Towards the end of his second sermon, the president again lashed out at the treacherous counterrevolutionary group of the monafeqin (the so-called mujahidin) who had said had "mixed atrocity with stupidity" for joining Iran's enemy, Iraq in their joint aggression against Iranian territory last month following Iran's acceptance of the U.S. [as received] Resolution 598.

"This attack again provided the Muslim people of Iran a chance to realise the filthy and hypocrite nature of the monafeqin," he said.

Again adverting to the Arabs reaction's aid in material and manpower to Iraq, Khamene'i said because of Iraqi generals' incompetency veteran forces from other Arab countries were hired in the Ba'thist Army. Despite such huge assistance, Khamene'i said, world propaganda centers by ignoring Iranian victories and portraying Iraq as successful, supported Saddam.

President Khamene'i stressed that the world of arrogance and reaction gained nothing after making such hard efforts and shouldering so many expenses and "'e leave the judgment on this to the world."

Velayati, Naseri Comment on UN Resolution 598

NC1108190288 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1556 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Weekly "Political Roundtable Discussion" with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Ambassador Siruz Naseri, permanent representative to the European office of the United Nations in Geneva, moderated by Afshar, correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpts] [Afshar] In the name of God, the Almighty, the compassionate. Greetings, dear brothers, sisters, and compatriots. We pray for your success and victory, dear viewers. We are here with you with the second network's political roundtable discussion. As you know, after the acceptance of Resolution 598 by the Islamic Republic of Iran, our foreign minister, Dr Velayati, visited the United Nations and held several talks with Mr Perez de Cuellar. Our program is devoted to questions on Resolution 598. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, one of the most important articles of Resolution 598 is the sixth one, which calls for setting up a committee to determine the aggressor. We have received information that the general form of this committee has been determined in the secretary general's implementation plan. Is this true?

If so, how is this committee being set up? Has the secretary general himself already appointed the members? Will he make the appointments, or will they be made by the Security Council? Or will they be made after consultations between the two?

[Velayati] This is among the duties of the secretary general. Information that we have received from various places, and on the basis of some facts that we gained in New York indicate that this group might be a 3-man group, headed by someone with a strong background and many years of experience in international law. The secretary general will do his best to use persons with known and impartial stands and who come from countries that had adopted impartial stands on this war.

Decisionmaking on this article and the seven other articles, except Article Four, is the duty of the secretary general. The secretary general will only consult with the two sides, and after receiving their views will decide and carry out his duty with the all-embracing support of the Security Council.

[Afshar] Has the date on which this committee will begin its work been specified?

[Velayati] We held 10 rounds of talks at the United Nations, as you yourself pointed out. We had long and complicated talks. Most of the time we recorded these talks and responded on the following day, after meeting with a delegation formed of legal and political figures from the Foreign Ministry, Tehran University, and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Two members of our delegation had participated in the signing of the 1975 Algiers Agreement and were completely aware of all its details and of the special aspects of our conflicts with Iraq.

Most of these individuals had higher education degrees in legal affairs and international relations, and some were university lecturers. In short, they were persons with years of experience in theoretical and practical work in international law and international relations. After each meeting, we held consultations and often wrote our response. We then submitted our answer in writing as a document to the United Nations at the end of each meeting held to receive our response.

What we understood during this period was that the Iraqis did not have this cooperation with the secretary general at all. As for us, there was an understanding between Iran and the secretary general on the date on which the cease-fire would start, the date on which the withdrawal would start and conclude, the date on which the registration of the prisoners of war who have not been registered would start, and the date on which the exchange of the prisoners of war would begin and end.

We reached agreements with the secretary general on all these issues, but when the secretary general placed his proposals with Iraq, Iraq would not answer. Thus, the secretary general was forced to hold a news conference and say that Iraq did not respond to any of the proposals.

In one of the reports, during the 2d week of our stay in New York, an American television correspondent said: During the past week the Iranian foreign minister and the accompanying delegation have been meeting with the secretary general, while the Iraqi foreign minister has not held any meetings with the secretary general. Gradually the political-propaganda conflict between us and Iraq turned into a conflict with Iraq on the one side and the United Nations, and especially the secretary general and Iran, on the other side.

That is why the secretary general was unable to, or did not want to, announce the issues which he had agreed on with us. He threatened that, irrespective of the fact that Iraq had not cooperated and that no results had been gained from talks that he should have had with Iraq, he has been given the right by the Security Council to unilaterally announce the date of the cease-fire.

However, it appears that with the all-embracing efforts that took place from all sides, and due to the continuously growing pressures, they received indications and told us that Iraq would soon withdraw its precondition, that the cease-fire would be accepted as the first step, and that the cease-fire date would be announced. Therefore, we have certain estimations as far as the secretary general's views are concerned.

However, since these have not been finalized, I cannot give accurate figures on this. I would also like to state that the main objective of this visit and this phase of the talks was the determination of the date of the cease-fire and its announcement by the secretary general, its being made official by the Security Council, and the complete and official approval of the dispatch of an observer group by the Security Council to the joint borders of the two countries.

This was the main objective behind this visit and this round of talks, and the secretary general preferred that we reach this main objective, establish the date of the cease-fire for the time being, and then go on to the other phases which will begin 5 days from the date of the cease-fire.

[Afshar] Thank you, Mr Velayati. Mr Naseri, as far as the Islamic Republic's political activities in international organizations, and namely in the United Nations and the Security Council, are concerned, I do not think that it is realistic for us to believe that there are just people sitting in the Security Council who listen to and accept our just stand. Therefore, we should adopt a special stand as far as our political activities in the United Nations are concerned, so that we can convey our just stand to international forums and to the people of the world.

One assessment is that the superpowers, and especially the West, are not willing to tolerate a strong Iraq, which is why the Islamic Republic's demands in this respect coincide with their demands. Therefore, they listen to us. Another assessment is that basically international organizations, such as the Security Council, are a means for the superpowers to attract world public attention.

Therefore, if we can portray our just view in a logical way, we can attract public attention and gain some benefit. Which of these two is correct, in your opinion, and is there a third assessment apart from these two?

[Naseri] You have actually answered your own question. My answer is that both these assessments apply, and there are many other issues besides. [passage omitted]

From the very beginning of the revolution we were not very optimistic regarding international forums, and we were correct in this because the world was not prepared to accept our revolution, nor was it prepared to see us gain our rights, which are among the definite principles approved by international forums. [passage omitted]

However, when the system was able to stabilize itself and show the world that it is a strong system and that Iran, an important country in the region, has definitely become a stronger country thanks to its new ideological system and the people's support for the leadership, the world had to accept this, whether they liked it or not.

Also, the new people who had come to power with the new system were better able to learn how to make our word heard, despite the involved and complicated procedure at the United Nations. Gradually our situation improved. [passage omitted]

We have a difficult task before us as far as the implementation of this resolution is concerned. We will definitely use all the political and diplomatic means at our disposal so that this resolution will be implemented in the best way possible and so that the just interests of our people can be safeguarded.

[Afshar] Thank you, Mr Naseri...

[Velayati, interrupting] There is one point that should be made. It may be necessary for us to review our initial suppositions on relations with countries and international forums. We have been repeatedly asked: Do you think that the United Nations exhibits good will now, or do you think that this or that country is your true friend? In other words, there is an elementary belief that we assess relations between countries or between a country and international forums on the basis of sentiments.

This assessment is fundamentally incorrect. There is no country that does not grant priority to its national issues in its relations with another country, unless that country is dependent on another power, in which case the interests of the ruler of that system take priority. Therefore, it may be better for us to regard the United Nations' approach toward us within this context: Can the Islamic Republic of Iran use the existing elements on the international scene, especially in the United Nations, and use the existing weapons, to the benefit of the Islamic Republic's interests? If we ask this question, then we can get a suitable answer which will be in proportion with the effectiveness of our system on the international scene.

Therefore, we should not think that an atmosphere has been created, or hope that an atmosphere will be created, in the United Nations which will suddenly make it a devoted supporter of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is not so. The United Nations is an international forum which was created on the basis of a decision made by a number of big powers that emerged as victors from World War II, and which the other countries joined later on. The nations benefit from these forums, in terms of their interests, according to the extent of influence that they exert or that they try to gain in these forums, and according to the weapons that they have in hand.

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, after the UN secretary general announced that 20 August would be the day on which the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq would begin, he announced that the direct talks between Iran and Iraq would start 5 days after this date in Geneva. What was the Islamic Republic's answer concerning these direct talks? On what level will we be participating, and how long will these talks continue?

[Velayati] We did not oppose direct talks. As stated by His Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander-in-chief, and by His Excellency Mr Khamene'i, the honorable chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, we were not and are not against direct talks. The statements made by the respected officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as pointed out, were made before our delegation went to the United Nations.

However, as pointed out by Mr Naseri, Iraq tried to use this as a precondition in order to, first, prevent the correct implementation of Resolution 598 and, second, to try from the beginning to impose its views. Being aware of Iraq's objectives, we confronted them seriously and said that no precondition is acceptable, that the cease-fire should be the first step, and that after the establishment of the cease-fire, if the UN secretary general—as the plenipotentiary official designated by the Security Council for this—determines that direct talks should take place, then we will not oppose this. We left the level of the talks to be determined by the secretary general. These direct talks actually consist of three sides: Iran, Iraq, and the United Nations.

If the highest official in the United Nations; that is, the secretary general, directly participates in the talks, then the level that should participate from Iran and Iraq should be not less than ministerial level. It is not correct for the basic issues of the Islamic Republic, and for the basic issues that will be discussed, to be discussed at lower levels. We can frankly say that since the Islamic revolution and until now we have not had such sensitive political talks or such a sensitive political phenomenon in the Islamic Republic. Even if the situation was not what it is now and it was not a matter of what the secretary general called for, it would not be right for the Islamic Republic's sensitive and vital issues to be discussed at a lower level.

[Afshar] Thank you, Mr Velayati...

[Naseri, interrupting] I would like to add that the talks are serious. As far as our experience with Iraqi rule is concerned, we know that their respect for commitments has not been a simple issue in the past. For our part, we want them to respect the level which these commitments call for, so that we can fulfill them. We do not want a

low-level expert to come from Iraq to discuss important commitments, to reach a conclusion, and make a commitment. We are serious about the talks. Therefore, we want the talks to be serious, and the commitments as well.

[Afshar] Mr Naseri, one of the important points in Article 1 of Resolution No 598 is the return of the forces of Iran and Iraq to international borders. What is the basis for the decision on these international borders, and what guarantee is there for this withdrawal, particularly when Iraq has announced that its forces have returned to the international borders while we know that some of the heights in Mehran and Naft-e Shah and a triangular-shaped area in Shalamcheh are in the hands of the Iraqi forces?

After the cease-fire, if the Iraqi forces intend to attack our territory once again, they will be in a superior position, in view of the fact that these Iranian territories are in their hands. Please comment on this for our viewers.

[Naseri] The basis for returning to international borders is completely clear. We have the Algiers agreement, in which the borders were delineated after many talks between the two countries. This is the last agreement. Obviously, border agreements cannot be changed. For us and the United Nations there are no problems. The maps that the United Nations has on international borders were drawn up on the basis of the Algiers agreement. The resolution points to two steps in its first article: immediate cease-fire and immediate withdrawal to recognized international borders.

From the point of view of international law, the recognized international borders are those delineated by the Algiers agreement. Therefore, we have no problems as far as this is concerned. Our position is clear, and the position of the United Nations on this should be clear too. As for the immediate withdrawal, this withdrawal should obviously take place in a very short period of time. Of course, with its aggression against us, the Iraqi regime showed that it covets the soil of our Islamic country, and that it wanted to establish itself over a vast area of our territory and start the talks holding the upper hand; that is, the same position that it had at the beginning of the war when it wanted to talk to us on the basis of Resolution No 479 at a time when it occupied a large part of our territory.

Fortunately, as was expected, our combatant nation went to the fronts. Not only did this boost our morale on the political scene, but it was a definite necessity. We could not allow Iraq to reach its aggressive objectives. We were able to repulse the Iraqis from a vast part of our territory, and you know that in the most important areas they were forced to retreat only because of our fighters' resistance. In some parts in the west, which were not very important areas, they retreated before being attacked. However, in most cases and particularly in the very sensitive southern region, they retreated because of our fighters' resistance.

It is true they are still in a few areas, but what the resolution calls for is clear: an immediate return to internationally recognized borders. As for the UN's commitments, that is, the commitments of the UN secretary general and of the Security Council who have called for a full implementation of the resolution, the withdrawal to international borders should take place. If Iraq wants to find a pretext, as it did initially, then we definitely have the weapons necessary to confront it on the political scene and to inflict political pressure on it.

We think that after the experience Iraq gained recently in New York when it was forced to comply, and that following their reassessment of the situation after witnessing our fighters' great strength, it seems highly unlikely that they will try to delay this process. As for the exact time this will take place, it depends on when the secretary general announces his final decision. As far as we are concerned, this issue is clear and final.

[Afshar] Mr Velayati, after 2 weeks of obstructionism by Iraq on the date of the cease-fire, when the UN secretary general announced that the cease-fire would begin on 20 August, Saddam ordered 3 days of public celebrations in Iraq, an obviously artificial gesture. We think that he did this because Iraq is facing domestic problems, that the people may have raised questions about what was gained after 8 years of aggression against a neighboring country, and that he resorted to such an act to show that Iraq had won a victory after 2 weeks of obstructionisms, proposals, and preconditions.

What is your opinion of these celebrations? Moreover, if, during the Geneva talks, the Iraqi regime resorts to obstructionism regarding the 1975 Algiers agreement, which Mr Naseri said will be the basis of the decision, what political weapons do we have on hand in order to apply political pressure?

[Velayati] I think that the first part of your question can be answered by reviewing the behavior of the Iraqi rulers. If you recall, after each defeat the defeated officers were decorated. Now also, after the tragedy that they created for the Iraqi nation, they celebrate in order to make justifications regarding the domestic scene. [passage omitted]

As for the second part of your answer on the 1975 agreement, this agreement was signed in March 1975 in Algiers between the then heads of state. They agreed that a pact would be compiled. A few months later, this pact was signed by the then foreign ministers of both countries. A number of protocols between the two countries were signed on certain dates up until 1978. There is a

protocol covering each issue, such as borders, the Shatt al-'Arab, and some other points. This agreement was officially documented at the United Nations.

As far as international law is concerned, this agreement is of great value internationally. There is no period, no paragraph in this agreement that has not been foreseen. Therefore, it is an extremely valid agreement. In my talks with Mr Perez de Cuellar, he said that as far as the United Nations is concerned, the agreement is valid. Also, the remarks made by the various representatives at the Security Council and at the United Nations indicate that the interested countries in the world do not consider any other basis but this agreement for resolving the conflict. Therefore, our criterion at the talks is the 1975 agreement.

[Afshar] Mr Naseri, a 350-man group known as the UNIIMOG [United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group] has been assigned to supervise the cease-fire implementation. How will this 350-strong delegation be stationed along the 1,200-km border?

[Naseri] I do not think that you want me to say exactly where these forces will be established.

[Afshar] No.

[Naseri] However, I can explain somewhat. It is clear that the resolution has called for a supervised cease-fire. The second article emphasizes this. The same applies to withdrawal. As its name implies, this group of observers should not be mistaken for an intervening force. It is merely a team of observers. [passage omitted]

The teams will have two headquarters, one in each capital, and will be stationed at specific points on the borders as they will naturally have to supervise the situation on the borders. Moreover, they should be equipped in such a way that they will be observe both airspace and waterways and to carefully supervise what the cease-fire regulations call for. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, immediately after Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 and the announcement of the cease-fire, the Americans expressed hopes for the release of their hostages in Lebanon. At the same time, they repeatedly called for talks with our officials and for a reestablishment of relations with us. The fact that these things happended at the same time cannot be just a coincidence. What does Your Excellency think is the reason for this?

[Velayati] You have to ask for the reason behind this from those who made these things coincide. The fact that they called for talks is one side of the issue, but there are two sides to it. When I was in New York these statements were repeatedly made by U.S. officials, and the correspondents asked for our answer. Our answer was decisively negative as far as the talks and the reestablishment of relations were concerned.

As for the hostages, as the officials of the Islamic Republic have stated on various occasions, if on a humanitarian basis we can do something for the release of persons who are apparently innocent and who are facing difficulties, then we will not hesitate. But connecting this in the Western mass media to the Islamic Republic or the propaganda pressure on the Islamic Republic pursues a political objective aimed at defaming the system of the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, please allow me to ask Your Excellency the last question. During your stay in New York, you handed a letter to the UN secretary general on the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime in Oshnaviyeh. What steps has he taken on this?

[Velayati] I wrote two letters, one to the Security Council chairman and the other to the secretary general. The step should be taken by the Security Council. In other words, the secretary general should be asked to send a team of experts to the area in order to investigate Iran's allegations. While we were in New York, the Security Council chairman brought up the issue at the session of the Security Council, which unanimously approved of the secretary general sending the investigation delegation.

The telex that we received from New York last night states that two of the three-man group have been appointed. The third person, who should be a doctor, may have been designated by now or may be designated soon. This delegation will come to Iran and go to Oshnaviyeh in order to see the signs of this horrific crime perpetrated by the Iraqi regime at a time when the secretary general and the Security Council were calling for self-restraint from both sides.

[Afshar] In conclusion, I would like to thank both gentlemen for having accepted our invitation to participate in this roundtable discussion.

Dear viewers, we hope that this week's political roundtable discussion has been useful for you, and together with our two participants, Dr Velayati and Mr Naseri, I bid you farewell. God bless you, and good night.

Australian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Meets With Musavi

LD1108171588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden today met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

While expressing his pleasure at Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598, Mr Hayden expressed his hope that this will lead to the establishment of peace and reconstruction in the region. The Australian foreign minister

also expressed his country's willingness to expand bilateral relations in various economic fields. He called for an increase in the exchange of economic and political delegations between Iran and Australia.

In this meeting, our prime minister referred to the need for expanding relations and increasing contacts between Iranian and Australian officials. He said that this would be useful in enabling both countries to get to know each other's peculiarities and capabilities better. Referring to the fact that future plans for the economic expansion of the mining industry will be regarded as one of the main tasks, the prime minister said that the outlook for bilateral cooperation in this field is good.

Australia To Increase Imports

LD1108172188 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA—Visiting Australian Foreign Minister William G. Hayden met Deputy Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji here today and discussed with him ways of promoting bilateral commercial ties. He expressed Australia's keenness to increase non-oil imports from Iran.

A joint statement was released at the end of the meeting, calling for expansion of commercial ties between the two countries on the basis of mutual interest, and for facilitating and diversifying bilateral trade exchanges.

According to the statement, technical and industrial cooperation between Iranian and Australian companies would expand and a joint committee will be set up to to finalize Tehran-Canberra trade accord.

The Australian foreign minister arrived here yesterday at the head of a politico-economic delegation.

Hayden Holds News Conference

LD1108192788 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug 11, IRNA—Australian Foreign Minister William Hayden, currently here at the head of a delegation, told a press conference in Tehran Thursday that Tehran-Canberra ties in agricultural, technical and cultural fields are all set to expand.

He also predicted that the volume of Australia's exports to Iran, mostly mean and consummer goods, would rise to dlrs 400 million this year from dlrs 360 million last year.

Australia in turn imported dlrs 5 million worth of Iranian goods last year and in only the first five months of the current year its imports from Iran have reached 21 million dollars, Hayden said.

Hayden, referring to the fact that Iran has no foreign debts despite being involved in a nearly 8-year-old war, said that the Islamic Republic has skillfully handled its economy without depending on other countries or receiving foreign loans.

The Australian foreign minister who arrived here yesterday has so far met with President 'Ali Khamene'i, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali and and Deputy Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji.

Hayden and his entourage are to leave Tehran for Canberra Friday.

Khamene'i Meets Envoys to Sri Lanka, Argentina

LD1008153688 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i received charge d'affaires designate to Sri Lanka 'Abdol Reza Faraji here Wednesday and gave him necessary guidelines on expansion of Tehran-Colombo ties.

Earlier in the day, Iran's ambassador to Argentina Mohammad Madi Pur-Mohammadi, currently here on a homecoming visit, met with President Khamene'i and briefed him on the latest developments in the country of his assignment.

The president welcomed the promotion of Tehran-Buenos Aires relations and mutual cooperation in various fields and gave Pur-Mohammadi necessary guidelines on topics brought up at the meeting.

Also, in another meeting today, Iran's ambassador to Austria Hoseyn Noqrekar-Shirazi presented Khamene'i a report on the country of his assignment and activities of various Vienna-based international organizations.

Khamene'i expressed satisfaction with the growing trend in Tehran-Vienna ties and underlined the need for Iran's active presence in the international scene.

Khomeyni Letter Commends Bushehr Air Base

LD1108183088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] A handwritten letter of commendation by Imam Khomeyni, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, praising the brave commander and pilots of the Bushehr air base, who have played a significant role in the holy defense over the last 8 years, was presented to the base commander this morning in a special ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by the Friday prayers leader of Bushehr, personnel, pilots, officials of the politico-ideological department of the Bushehr air base, along with several provincial officials.

In this ceremony the imam's representative and Friday prayers leader of Bushehr expressed gratitude to the pilots, pointing out that God's blessing is upon those who use their weapons for Him and for the consolidation of His state. He said: The letter of commendation from his eminence the imam is very valuable for you pilots. This document highlights your resistance and steadfastness in the face of world arrogance.

Concluding this ceremony, Hojjat-ol Eslam Madani, the imam's representative and Friday prayers leader of Bushehr, presented the imam's letter of commendation to the commander and the pilots of Bushehr air base.

Lebanese Families Deported by Saudi Arabia
LD1108165288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The Islamic Republic News Agency reports that the Al Sa'ud regime has deported two Lebanese nationals and their families from the Hijaz on charges of sympathizing with the Islamic Revolution.

One of the deportees, Majid Hamdan, in an interview given to the IRNA correspondent said: The Al Sa'ud regime detained us in a prison for 2 weeks on charges of being affiliated with Hizballah. We were handcuffed and taken to the airport and deported with our families, without permitting us to take along any possessions. Hamdan added: The king of the Hijaz personally issued the deportation order.

WIH Denies Claims of Shelling Iraqi Troops
LD1208100188 Tehran IRNA in English 0956 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) today categorically denied Baghdad's claims that Iranian forces had shelled positions of Iraqi troops on Thursday.

The spokesman said the enemy's false propaganda is solely aimed at covering up its hostile intentions.

He blasted Iraq for her recent aggressive moves against Iranian territory and its poison gas attack on the northwestern town of Oshnoviyeh which he said all took place after Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Resolution 598 seeking to end the conflict.

In continuation of Baghdad's aggression of Iran, Iraqi warplanes Wednesday violated the airspace of a number of Iranian cities shortly after the declaration of ceasefire by U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar and in defiance of his request to both parties for utmost self-restraint, the spokesman said.

Liberation Army Says Released POW's Defect
NC1208113788 Paris AFP in English 1130 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Nicosia, Aug 12 (AFP)—About 850 Iranian prisoners of war held by the opposition Iranian National Liberation ARmy (INLA) have decided to join its ranks, the INLA said in a communique release Friday in Baghdad.

The Iraqi-backed INLA, the military arm of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, said the POWs were among 1,300 soldiers freed Thursday by the INLA. They were seized "following a series of INLA offensives" on Iran, the statement said.

This is the third group of Iranian POWs freed by the INLA in the past year, the organization said. The first was released on November 9, 1987, and the second on March 11, 1988. [passage omitted]

Liberation Army To Continue War Against Khomenyi
LD1008131888 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1240 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 10 (TANJUG)—The National Liberation Army of Iran, which is fighting against Ayatollah Khomeyni from the territory of Iran, will continue its war even after the decision on a ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran conflict, the army's leader Mas'ud Rajavi said.

Rajavi, who calls himself the president of the National Council of Resistance and commander of its army, claims that the "state of Khomeyni's regime is desperate," that Tehran's agreement to an end of war operations is a "sign of its disintegration" and the "start of the inevitable end" of the Islamic Republic's top leadership.

The National Council of Resistance and the National Liberation Army of Iran will "continue opposing Khomeyni's regime," Rajavi said. Anti-Khomeyni forces will continue the struggle "until the complete liberation of the Iranian people," he added.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Official Details Group's Aims
LD1008154988 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1513 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Belgrade, August 10 (TANJUG)—The war against Iraq was a way of surviving for Khomeyni and the ruling mullahs and a cover for wide repression, 'Ali Reza Jaffazadeh said in an exclusive interview to the Belgrade daily BORBA.

'Ali Reza Jaffazadeh is a high-ranking official of the Iranian National Liberation Army (INLA) which has bases in Iraq and of the illegal Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation.

The Khomeyni regime did not accept Security Council Resolution 598 because it wants peace but in order to lengthen its own life, he said.

Khomeyni's rule is an extremely reactionary religious dictatorship, he underscored and added that Khomeyni promised to defend independence, freedom and Islam and sacrificed the Iranian people to overthrow the shah.

Unfortunately Imam Khomeni broke all his promises and the people got a much more repressive regime than the shah's.

We are not an organisation which only wants to impose its own political alternative, Jaffazadeh said. He added that the people of Iran will free themselves and that the NLA is there only to show them the way.

He said the NLA consisted mainly of intellectuals, graduates of world-renown universities who joined it in an effort to help their people regain their dignity.

As opposed to Khomeyni who is a symbol of the past, the Mojahedin believe in an Islam in accord with democratic traditions, progress and respect for the rights of all peoples, Jaffazadeh said.

He said the Mojahedin favored cooperation with all peoples based on full respect of sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

In regard to the program of the Council of National Resistance, the NLA's highest representative body, Jaffazadeh said the document envisages the forming of an interim government with the task of returning sovereignty and dignity to the people of Iran and establishing new democratic rules of behaviour.

He said the program also covers the establishing of a true people's government elected in free elections, establishing equal political and social rights notwithstading race, ethnic membership or religion.

Jaffazadeh underscored that no religious group, not even Moslems, would be a privileged category of citizens.

Pakistan

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Delivers Khamene'i Message

BK1108161988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Dr 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, the Iranian president's special envoy and Iran's deputy foreign minister, met President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad today and handed him a message from President Khamene'i. On this occasion, the president expressed the hope that the Geneva peace talks between Iran and Iraq will lead to a comprehensive settlement and durable peace which will benefit the entire Islamic community.

The president asked the Iranian deputy foreign minister to convey his congratulations to Iranian leaders for their decision to accept the UN Security Council Resolution No 598. During this meeting, the two sides also discussed bilateral relations and matters of common interest.

Meets With Ziaul Haq

LD1108172488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Dear listeners: In our news report section today, we have a report about the meeting between Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati and Mr Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan:

[Unidentified correspondent] Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati, who has gone to Pakistan at the head of a political delegation, today met and conferred in Islamabad with Mr Ziaul Haq, the president of Pakistan.

In the meeting, Mr Besharati submitted a message from Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, our country's president, to Ziaul Haq, and held discussions about the development of the imposed war, the regional situation, mutual relations, and other matters of mutual interest.

Mr Ziaul Haq conveyed his warm greetings to President Khamene'i and to other officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: Iran will gain new strength from the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598 and will finally [words indistinct].

We have special respect for the Iranian people, not only because the two countries are Muslims and neighbors, but for the sake of defending the (?principles) for which they have struggled after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

The Pakistani president added: History will remember Imam Khomeyni [words indistinct]. Mr Ziaul Haq referred to the martyrdom of the leader of Pakistan Shi'ites: The (?assassination) of 'Alammah Seyyed 'Arif Husayn al-Husayni is worrying for us. He added: The people who committed the crime had no love for Pakistan or for Islam, and they undoubtedly (?did not believe in anything.)

Sri Lanka

Police Search for LTTE Bomb Squad in Colombo

BK1108111188 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Police in Colombo have carried out a series of search operations, particularly in the Petta area, following intelligence reports that an LTTE bomb squad had left for Colombo from Batticaloa this week. Police told

LANKAPUVATH that it was possible that the bomb squad was being dispatched to Colombo to eliminate LTTE's rivals—TELO and PLOTE. There had been several murders already and clashes between the rivals gangs in Colombo. The last was the killing of the TELO Vavuniya leader on Tuesday night.

The public have been requested to be vigilant and report to the police any person they find acting suspiciously.

President Says Terrorism 'Most Important Problem'
BK1208123588 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] President Jayewardene has said that the terrorist campaign on his mind is the most important problem that has to be solved because he wished to have early elections.

The presidential election is due at the end of December. Parliament elections are scheduled for August next year. He said the president can hold it at any time, even in the next few weeks. This is a decision that has to be taken.

He told a meeting of chairmen of all state corporations that if the terrorists succeed in their plans, it is not a question of their taking over, it's the question of what policies, what principles have those who take over to offer to the people: nothing but dictatorship, violence, destruction, and anti-democratic principles.

This is the main question which all of us have to bring our minds to bear. This campaign of slaughter is not to the benefit to the people of democracy.

He asked what will happen if the government elected by the people is destroyed. No one knows about this. But to get it back again to be the democratic system is very difficult.

Briefs

Incoming USSR Envoy

Yuriy Mikhaylovich Kotov will assume duties as new Soviet Ambassador in Sri Lanka next week. Mr Kotov succeeds K.N. Kulmatov who served as Ambassador during the past 2 years. [Excerpt] [*BK1108160588 Colombo SUN in English 30 Jul 88 p 1*]